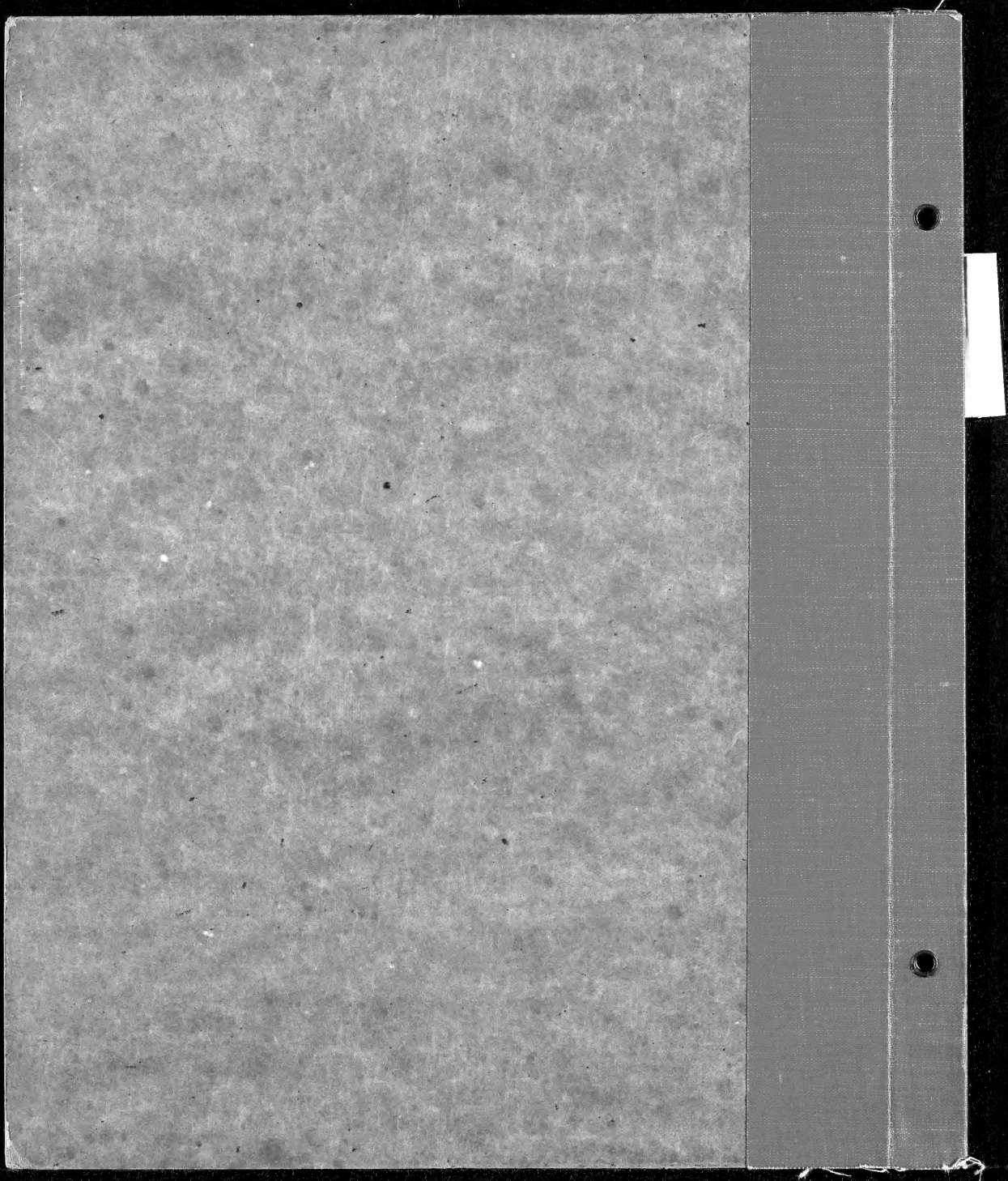


Journal, 1909.
June - Dec. 21

17



Bethel, Maine

1909.
June 1

Brilliantly clear with fresh W. wind. Cool at morning and evening, warmer through middle of day.

When I left Cambridge this morning the apple orchards had shed their last blossoms and nearly all our trees, both cultivated and forest, were in practically full leaf. From Postsummit to Mechanics Falls the apple trees were still in bloom but beyond Bangor's Pond very few of the fruit buds had fully opened. The latter conditions obtained at Bethel where the vegetation was at least ten days behind that at Cambridge. The elms in the town cast heavily among shade but some of the maples were in half leaf. The woods were rich in young foliage of delicate & varied tints of green, salmon and coppery red.

There were numbers of Warblers singing in the orchards in the village many of them north of the mountains, no doubt, although I noted no species which does not breed west of Cape Breton. The singing on evening was very fine with Robins and Orioles near at hand and Vireos and Peewees in the distance along the road edges.

I heard a Hawk when near the library where our camp last summer.

There was a Yellow Warbler singing below the hotel in Skunk Hollow.

A Cowbird sang near the hotel and I heard another singing in Dr. Litcher's shrubbery.

Margaret Merrill a bright girl 13 years of age tells me that Mrs. Rowe has found a bird class in the village. On its outskirts, in a sandy field to the eastward of the grove of pine trees the members of this class were shown a Prairie Horned Lark last Saturday, May 29th. It was so tame they got within a few feet of it. Margaret saw it & seems certain of its identity. It had been seen there before a week or more.

Prairie
Horned
Lark.

Bethel to Lakeside

1909.
June 2

Partly cloudy. Warm with light S. W. wind. Cold (almost frosty) in the early morning and again cold at evening.

Leaving Bethel on 9.30 A. M. I reached Lakeside at 4.30 P. M. driving through in a light buggy drawn by a pair of reindeer. We stopped often by the roadside to look for wild flowers and to listen to the birds with which the woods and thickets and even the open fields, were fairly alive in many places. Evidently there was a rather heavy north-bound migration still under way, probably representing the same general of the last under way spring flight especially of Hoarblers which were particularly numerous. Of these I noted no species which do not breed in the region but the number of individuals was far in excess of that in summer. In North Bethel I saw by the roadside one bird which was unquestionably going south faster north via a beautiful White-crowned Sparrow. Bay-breasted Hoarblers were noted only in Grafton where I heard no less than four males singing. As usual I looked and listened for Prairie House Wrens in the open, sandy fields of musky & Grafton but without success.

Heavy bird
flight still
under way

There was a decided change in the vegetation after we had fairly entered the North, when it was fully ten days behind that on Bethel, for of the forest trees showing more than a tinge of green while many of them were perfectly leafless. I expected to find them more advanced again as we descended the hill from Upton valley to Lakeside but this was not the case for even about the shores of the lake their leaves were only just beginning to appear. The ice went out of this lake on May 14 and I am told there is still snow in canyon woods near its shores. We saw two deep drifts by the road in Grafton a little above the North

Vegetation

Lake opened
May 14

Snow drifts
in Grafton

Bethel to Gassville

1909.

June 2
(no 2)

There were wild flowers in great variety and profusion all the way, especially about the hatch, and I enjoyed them exceedingly. The most showy of all were those of the western Shade bush (I looked in vain for our common Worm. Shrub). They were at the very height of their profusion and the roads and wood edges were lined with their snowy clusters in many places. Some of the bushes were low and spreading, others small, very trees twenty or even thirty feet in height. The hatch bush and the Canada Plum were also in fullest bloom & very attractive. Of the small hedgehog plants I saw in places Aster (probably G. ruber) humble violets, dandelions (still in their prime), white robins, purple Williams, houstonia & others. Dog tooth violets were plentiful in and about the hatch but growing, for the most part, rather beatifully although it was not uncommon to pass a dozen or more of the large yellow blossoms crowded together within the space of a square yard or less. In the upper part of the hatch on a low wooded bank bordering the east side of the road where the soil is rich and rather wet I was not less surprised than delighted to find Claytonia and Diandra (Dutchman's Bunch) in great profusion and bliss in fullest flower. I have never noted either species before in this region and never before have I seen any where - not even in New Jersey or about Burlington - a finer display of the flowers of Claytonia. They formed an umbrella bed of rose and white stretching along the roadside for a distance of fifty or twenty yards and back from it from ten to twenty feet. Here the Diandra was plentifully intermingled with them but I did not notice it in another bed of almost equal extent of Claytonia which we passed a hundred or two yards further on nor did I afterwards detect either species on the way to the falls. My driver, Mr. Alfred True, assures me that Claytonia increases sparingly in these localities in Bethel.

Spring
hedgehog
along the
roadside
Shade bush

Hatch bush

Dog tooth
violets

Claytonia
Diandra
in Grafton
hatch

Lake Umbagog.

1909.
June 3

Cloudless with high-north-west wind which died away in the late afternoon. Warm at midday (70°), cool at morning and evening.

Leaving Bolleside shortly before sunset I strolled slowly along the road trending eastward as far as the deep hollow. It was a perfect evening without a cloud in the sky, the air calm and deliciously cool and ringing with the song of Hermit Thrushes and Robins. Besides them of several species of Mockers. I heard Vireos far and near along the lake shore and a Swainson's Thrush in downy pasture spaces. Above the water singing and calling, a Night Hawk, purring. Purple Finches heard in a few places. I looked in vain for the music of the Winter Wren which I had hoped to hear by the brook where there was one two years ago.

The roadsides were everywhere gay with spring flowers not less attractive, if somewhat less showy, than those found here in late summer & early autumn. Most abundant and well as pleasing were those of the purple trillium, of the water lobelia, of the twisted stalk, of Adonis, of the wild strawberry, of violet both purple & white. The yellow bells of Clintonia were almost but not quite ready to unfold. The heads of ferns were rising everywhere in dense banks and some of the fronds had already opened. There were several species of flowering shrubs that contributed more of beauty to the scene than did any of the more lovely herbaceous plants. Of these shrubs the northern shrub bush was the most abundant and conspicuous, growing abundantly along the roadsides and wood edges. Some specimens were low and spreading others spire or dome shaped trees 30-35 feet in height. All were densely covered with sunny blossoms contrasting with the browns - had young foliage

Evening
walk along
lake road

Spring
flowers.
ferns etc.

Loake Umbagog

1909.

June 3

(1874)

Vegetation

so characteristic of this species in early spring. The masses of white made them thus conspicuous at a great distance, even after the day light had nearly gone, when I could see them across the lake gleaming like feathers of snow on its otherwise sombre shores.

The ladder bush, also, was in fullest bloom. To it, I think, the most strikingly beautiful flowering shrub found in this region especially if viewed from a distance of only a few yards and from a little above where the broad, rounded, rough-veined leaves (now almost fully grown), do not conceal the large, snow-white flowers in the cymes that rise between and only a little above them. These leaves are ordinarily in pairs and slightly drooping. Their coloring now is a peculiarly rich yet rather light green. Their conspicuous & profuse veining with their perfect shape make them a very attractive setting for the flowers.

I found quantities of Pharoxetia dryopteris just unfolding its fronds and growing almost everywhere along the roadside from the hotel to the deep hollow, where I have searched for it closely yet vainly in midsummer.

Actea (probably rubra) common & in full bloom.

The Saxifraga plant is much in evidence and very attractive just now for its recently unfolded leaves are of a strikingly rich if rather light brown color. Just beneath them hang the clusters of flower buds, about to open.

The foliage on the large forest trees has grown & thickened amazingly in the past two days. The delicate pine and Salmon trees are fading perceptibly. Soon the forest will be in full leaf and of the most uniform summer green. Indeed the unfolding of the leaves and the change from early spring to midsummer aspect is accomplished here in the space of only a few days.

Snake Umbagog.

1909
June 3
(No 3)

As I was standing by the roadside this evening, looking at some windflowers, a Song Sparrow began chirping excitedly among some bushes on the further side of a little spring.

The next instant a female Sharp-shinned Hawk dropped into the thicket with dangling legs and fluttering wings.

It missed the Sparrow, however, and rising to a branch of a birch perched there for a moment with its gaze directed downwards, evidently waiting for some movement to betray the exact place of concealment of the Sparrow. It saw in a second or two later & darted off through the trees.

Shortly after sunset a Nashville Warbler was above some birch & poplar woods to sing on wing. This I have not often seen (or heard). I note the bird's song on the spot as follows: - Chirp, te-chirp, te-chirp, te-chirp, te-te-te-te. The preliminary chirps were disconnected & given rather slowly. The terminal part of the song was normal.

Sharp-shinned
Hawk
seen at
Song Sparrow
Bush near
it.

Light
Song of
Nashville
Warbler

Leake Umbagog.

1909.

June 4

Ever since I arrived here Toads (Bufo americanus) have kept up a ceaseless clamor by night and day. I heard it constantly in the distance while at Lakeside and now it is shrilly dropping about the house boat anchored near the mill in Upton, where I am spending the night. On paddling over the flooded meadows & the river just before dark I passed hundreds of Toads which were floating or swimming down of logs from them in deep water but none of them were trilling. I have heard neither Frogs nor Hylas about the lake as yet.

Toads
trilling

Swarms of small Bats flying low over the water of the lake this evening occasionally striking its surface lightly. One entered the living room on the house boat & circled over my lamp.

Bats

Heard the song of a Philadelphia Vireo this morning. The bird was in our open rose when I found my nest. I know it only

Phila.
Vireo.

imperfectly. Song typical very short with our loud staccato note also typical of the species. A Red-eye that I saw sang equally shrilly averaging only forty notes to the minute.

Loake Umbagog.

1909.

June 5

South-east rain storm beginning about 9 a.m. continuing through the day and into the night. Wind blew strong in forenoon.

As Gilbert and I were standing on the deck of the house boat about noon to-day a Green Heron flew past within 30 yards and alighted in the top of a tall dead tree within 50 yards. After perching there a minute or two it flew across the cove and alighted on a floating log near the mouth of Stony Brook. Here it remained less than a minute. When it took wing the second time it appeared to have been startled by something for it uttered first a cackling că-că-că-că-că and then its characteristic scow, scow, as it disappeared among the trees in the direction of Pease's house. I had a fine view of it as it passed the boat and saw distinctly its blue-green back and chestnut head and neck. I have only one previous record for Umbagog, that of a bird shot many years ago in Sargent Cove in New Hampshire, the one seen to-day was near the Abbott Mill & Lake House in Upton, Maine.

Second
Umbagog
record for
Green Heron.

At least 4 or 5 pairs of Browned Grackles are breeding in the groups of balsam firs standing on the island by my boat house. I watched them for an hour or more to-day as they came and went across the water between the island and the mainland, bringing food in their bills for their young and taking away from the nest the white excreta of the young which they dropped in the lake as soon as they were well outside the outer ranks of alders. The young in one of the nests must have been well grown to judge by the loud clamor they let up whenever their parents approached. I saw one female Grackle carrying nesting material into the fir, but all the others appeared to have young. Yet it is only 22 days since the lake was encased with ice (it went out on May 14) and much of the country about it buried deep in snow. The Grackles appear to get most of their food in the farms on Upton Hill.

Early nesting
of Browned
Grackles.

Lake Umbagog.

1909.
June 5
(No 2)

The Browned Grackles nesting on my island do not appear to agree with Dr. Fisher in considering the Broad-winged Hawk an inoffensive bird. For I saw four or five of them leave their roosting to-day to pursue one of these Hawks across the lake with cries of indignation and alarm. They pressed him hard at one time forcing him to twist and double as they rose above and darted down at him in quick succession striking with their bills at his head and back.

Browed
Grackles
was a
Broad wing
Hawk

The only Duck of any kind that I have seen here as yet this spring is a ♀ Shoveler which is harrying the flooded meadows near the Lake House and probably nesting in some old stub. I started her yesterday not far from the mouth of Puske Bease, when she uttered a guttural kree-kree-kree-kree as she flew off. To-day she appeared a number of times in the cove near my boat house flying about in circles, now high now low, twisting and doubling very like a Snipe. During one of these flights she passed close over (certainly not more than 10 feet above) the smoke stack of the new steam mill from which a thick column of smoke was issuing at the time. She alighted once within twenty yards of the house boat. It is not improbable that she has young just out of the nest for she seemed anxious & excited. The motor boats are now so numerous about the lake that the water fowl are constantly disturbed by the pop-pop pop of their noisy engines.

Whistler.

Flightless

Gibbs saw a Partridge fly out from the woods near the mouth of Long Brook and alight on a floating log at the edge of a flooded thicket. He thought it came there to drink. It remained there only a few seconds when it flew back into the woods. This happened last evening, after sundown.

Partridge
on floating
log.

Loake Umbagog.

1909.
June 6

Forenoon cloudy, afternoon brilliantly clear. Very cool with light winds.

Spent afternoon up Cambridge River going as far as Ten Forks. For this entire distance of about 5 miles the woods and thickets were literally alive with very evenly distributed and apparently settled flocks for the summer. At least I noted no species which do not breed here & saw no mixed flocks. It brought back the good old times to see so many of the species formerly abundant all about Ten Lakes but now fast disappearing there. From the Mill to Ten Forks and back again there was not a single reach where I did not hear Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Titmice etc. by the dozens or perhaps even scores. It was like passing through an evergreen, ever startled avian. Redstarts, Black-bellied Woodpeckers, Black & Yellow Woodpeckers, Worm-eating Woodpeckers, Yellow Thrushes, White-throated Sparrows, Veeries, Winter Wrenches, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and Canada Nuthatches were the most numerous represented species. I heard one Cape May Warbler (a typical singer) one Mourning Warbler and one Bay Breasted, all then near an opening in cat spruce & balsam timber just below Ten Forks, no less than four Great Crested Titmice scattered at wide intervals all the way from the Mill to Ten Forks, two Winter Wrens about half a mile apart, both singing divinely, 2 Alder Titmice & a Piloted Woodpecker at Ten Forks, an Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker near where I once found a nest of this species. Purple Finches singing in two or three flocks. Of larger birds I saw an Osprey, a Great Blue Heron, a Marsh Wren, a Hooded Merganser and two Ferruginous Ibis. One of the last named birds allowed us to approach her within 20 yards as she swam on ahead up stream. We saw five or six Muskrats & heard two or three Red Squirrels. Deer tracks were not numerous anywhere. Saw for some recent cutting of the alders along its banks by river drives. The Cambridge has been left unweeded since I last saw it. There is much more black growth than now than any other about the mouth end of the lake. Seldom if ever have I found the lilies there more beautiful than it was to-day. The foliage is more backward than there on the Lake Shore & find there an air of age as yet.

Fish up
Cambridge River
to Forks

Loake Umbagog.

1909.
June 6
(No 2)

At the Forks where the Dead and the Swift Cambridge Rivers unite their waters is always a favorite haunt for birds. During the fifteen or twenty minutes we spent there this afternoon (about 5 o'clock) I noted the following species, most of which were heard singing near at hand in or about a small clearing in the forest where some back feathers built a camp several years ago.

Birds noted
about old
logging camp
on Forks
Cambridge
River.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Robin - one singing | 24 Yellow-bellied Tanager - one singing |
| 2. Veery " " | 25 Alder " two " |
| 3. Chickadee " calling | 26 Saw-whet " one calling |
| 4. Canada Warbler " " | 27 Pheasant " " " |
| 5. Cape May Warbler - one singing | 28 Kingfisher " calling |
| 6. Bay Breasted " " " | 29 Broad-winged Hawk " calling |
| 7. Yellow-rumped " " " | 30. Thrasher one singing in trees |
| 8. Chestnut-sided " then " | |
| 9. Black-throated Blue " one " | |
| 10. Redstart " " " | |
| 11. Mourning Warbler " " " | |
| 12. Oven Bird " " " | |
| 13. Water Thrush " " " | |
| 14. Maryland Yellow throat " " | |
| 15. Red-eyed Vireo " " " | |
| 16. Solitary " " " | |
| 17. Purple Finch " " " | |
| 18. White-throated Sparrow " " " | |
| 19. Swamp " " " | |
| 20. Song " " calling | |
| 21. Lawn Screecher One flying over | |
| 22. Chipping Swift " " " | |
| 23. Cedar Bird " heard. | |

The Red-bellied Nuthatch heard near this camp was calling in a peculiar manner, uttering a hè-hè-hè-hè-hè-hè-hè-hè-hè all these notes being uttered and uttered very rapidly. The general effect was not unlike that of the scolding chatter of a House Wren. I think I have heard this before but it is unusual. I wonder if it corresponds to the wa-wa-wa of Sitta canadensis & is, in effect, a song.

Song(?) of
Sitta
canadensis

1909.

June 7

Lake Umbagog.

Clear & cool with fresh N. wind; a glorious day.

About 2 P.M. a Duck Hawk appeared high in air a little to the southward of where our boat is anchored and nearly over the Peabody farm. After soaring in circles for a few minutes he sped off out of sight towards the south east on rapidly vibrating pinions. His wings looked very long, narrow and sharp-pointed, his general coloring very dark - almost black in some lights. I know of no bird of prey found in New England that can compare with this superb Hawk in grace, ease and swiftness of flight or in perfection of outline when seen against the sky. Soaring in circles.

Duck Hawk

I have already noted the little colony of Brown Geese that have young in the bogs on my island. There are several other flocks, I find, nesting in the tall white pines that shade the little red schoolhouse. Yesterday, & again to-day, I saw Robins chasing some of these Geese with loud, excited cries and no doubt with excellent good reason. The Geese feed about together in search of food. Spending much time wallowing on floating logs and driftwood about the shores of the lake. Yesterday I saw a female fly in under the old Abbott mill and remain there for two or three minutes searching among some half rotted planks, probably for drops or remains.

Brown
Geese

Early this forenoon I heard the wild screaming notes of a Red-shouldered Hawk just behind the Lake House. A moment later the bird was above the trees on the wooded knoll & soared in circles. It looked like a hawk.

Red-shouldered
Hawk

Loake Umbagog

1909.

June 8

Brilliantly clear with fresh N.W. wind; calm at morning and evening. Heavy, killing frost last night. Early morning very cool.

Then I first visited my boat house on June 8 the
 Barn Swallows were only beginning the foundations of their
 nests. On the 6th none of the nests were more than one half
 built. To-day a dozen or more are apparently completed,
 at least externally. This morning as I was watching the
 birds I saw two come together in the air and whirl
 around and around straight down to the ground, where
 they remained for considerably more than a minute in what
 I took to be sexual union, waving and fluttering their wings
 like butterflies. The other members of the colony seemed to
 be actively interested in the affair and to be not a little
 excited by it for they collected some ten feet or more
 and dashed down almost to them with loud cries. Then
 the pair finally separated one bird flew off in one
 direction the other in another. I do not think it could
 have been a fight for Barn Swallows are among the most
 peaceable and social of all birds and I have never known
 them show the slightest tendency to quarrel. Moreover I
 have seen Swifts copulate in precisely the same way
 although they do not often if ever remain so long on the
 ground together. The Swallows in this colony do not seem
 to be in the least disturbed by the dozen or more
 House Wren Grackles which are nesting in some cedars that
 partially shade the boat house nor do they pay the
 least attention to the Broad-winged Hawks which
 the Grackles mob every time they appear near the
 island.

Barn

Swallows

Sexual

contact (?)

in mud

air.

are friendly

to each other

and House Wrens

and Broad-winged

Hawks

Lake Umbagog.

1909.

June 8
(No 2)

The Browned Grackles which are nesting on my island are Breeding interesting birds to watch. They are evidently keen-witted Colony of and observing and full of resources in the matter of Browed obtaining food. When we first came here on June 4 they Grackles. foraged chiefly in the flowering corns on Upton Hill. During the past two or three days they have given most of their attention to the Coker Shores which the falling water is fast laying bare in many places. Nearly all the members of the colony spent the greater part of the day on the floating logs & drift wood in Slough Brook Cove directly to the leeward of our house boat. I was puzzled at first to understand what they could be getting there with Gilbert suggested that they might be attracted by some kind of refuse food which he had thrown overboard early in the morning. On watching them closely through my glass I found that this was the case. I saw them inspect & pick at some orange peel and skin & devour pieces of bread. After a time they confined their attention to food that had reached the shore but while we were at dinner and during much of the afternoon they were hovering over the water not far from the boat & intercepting whatever acceptation morsels we sent that way. I broke up dinner crackers into small fragments & cast them on the water. When the wind had drifted them a few rods down or a dozen Grackles collected over them like so many bulls or fish hawks, hovering with dangling legs just above the surface and picking up the pieces rapidly & easily, just touching the water with their feet but immediately taking the morsel in their bills. As they started to fly to shore they drew their feet up under the body plumes in front of them at the rear end of the stream. This I have distinctly a dozen times or more. Some of

Feeding on refuse food

from our house boat.

Picking up floating pieces of

bread.

Loake Umbagog.

1909
June 8
(the 3/)

the food thus obtained was taken to ^{a young in the} ~~the~~ nests on the island but the greater part was devoured by the old birds soon after they reached the nearest shore.

Immature
Grackles

One brood of young left the nest to-day and were fluttering about in the trees on the island although they did not look much more than one-half grown.

Thrice during the day I saw almost the entire colony of Grackles following a Broad winged Hawk across the lake steering out behind him with the tail of a comet. This was done without the least provocation on the part of the Hawk who was merely flying slightly from shore to shore and did not even pass over the island. On one occasion a dozen or more Grackles chased the Hawk with some danger of their heads. I saw them with a Hawk in a similar manner. Thrice they, in turn, were pursued by indignant Robins. Towards evening I noticed a Grackle who seemed much interested in the Barn Swallow colony.

They must
be feeding
Hawks

He alighted on the roof of the boat house and remained there for fully five minutes perched on the edge of the roof where he kept trying to peer in under the eaves where there were several nests. The Swallows showed no alarm at his presence. At length he flew swiftly away. I have little doubt that he, with most of his brethren, is an earnest nest robber.

They are
molested by
Robins.
One of them
inspects an
Barn Swallow
nest.

Broad-winged Hawks are abundant here this spring. I saw one about half a dozen to-day. Two were perched low over the water on the shores of the lake, evidently waiting for spawning birds. They were very tame & I got within less than 15 yards in very close. When they started to fly they made a loud fluttering sound with their wings.

Broad wing
Hawks.

Boats Umbagog.

1909.

June 9

Clear with light N. to S. W. winds. Warm through middle of day; cold, with a second heavy frost, last night.

We moved the house boat this morning from Stung Pond. We move the house-
Came to the first deep cove lying to the westward of the boat to
Boat House on the north shore of the flooded Cambridge River and the
meadows. It is a quiet & very picturesque little nook, almost cove.
landlocked, with an island at its mouth. Its shores are
everywhere densely wooded, largely with evergreen trees including
red spruces, balsams and ash birch. A tall straight sapling from
groves at the water's edge was one ambrosia. At the head of
the cove on a number of dry ash and maple stumps which bore
easily as I remember them in 1871. A little forest bank
is heavily forested and grown up in many places to dense
forest. Spruces & balsams thirty or forty years of age.

Birds literally swarm about this pretty little cove. Most
of them are woodland species among which I noted this
morning Bay-breasted Warbler, Yellow-rump, Black-burnian, Wren,
Canada, Mock & Yellow & Chestnut-sided Warblers, Horned Lark,
Blue-lined Tanager, Pileated Woodpecker & others. There
was a Cat Bird singing all day on a knoll densely wooded
with spruce & balsam, a singular haunt for this species.

As far as I can make out all the north-bound
migrants have passed on and such birds as I note here now
are all summer residents. If the region is as abundantly
supplied with them still as it was in my younger days
but there have been many changes in the relative numbers
of the different birds.

The woods continue as noisy as ever, by night & day.
I heard the first Bull Tanager yesterday. A day they were
tramping in all directions. A few Pileated Tansies were winging

Bird
neighbors

Migrants
are gone by

Toads,
Bull Frog
Pickers -

Lake Umbagog.

1909.

June 9

(1902)

Soon after we had moved the human boat this morning Brown
Grackles.
I saw six Grackles coming across the flooded meadow from
the boat house to one new aborage, a distance of about
300 yards. They alighted all together on a boom that
crosses one of the channels at the mouth of one pond and
and remained there for ten minutes or more watching
us intently, evidently in the hope of getting some of
our Supper bread & crackers. But none had been thrown
out and after awhile our table visitors flew back to
them island. (Eight Grackles visited our Corn on morning May 10 when
I fed them on cracker fragments on the boom.)

I have seen only one Night Hawk here this Spring.
Jim Mc. Brad says they have been getting scarce &
scores of late years and that they have now
practically deserted the entire region about Umbagog.

He says that a Whippoorwill used to hang about the
house on the Bird Store farm a dozen years or so ago.

Night Hawks
have deserted
Umbagog

Whippoorwill

Lake Umbagog.

1909
June 9
(No 3)

Game
Muskrats.

The cove where we are now anchored is inhabited by two large Muskrats. They were swimming about in the open water and diving for grass roots at all hours of the day and almost constantly through the entire forenoon although the day was without a cloud and the sun being hot. One of them is surprisingly tame. He swam just our house boat within a few yards when my guide was hammering something and when I was paddling across the cove in my canoe he intercepted it and came directly beneath the gunwale so that I could easily have touched him by extending my hand. He then dove & passed under the keel coming to the surface again as soon as he had got clear of the canoe. When under water he used only his hind feet, the forefeet & tail being held outstretched. He approached the canoe within four or five feet in the evening twilight. I see Muskrats everywhere about this part of the lake, sometimes five or six in one day.

Loake Umbagog.

1909.

June 10

Forenoon sunny and warm with light S. W. wind. Afternoon cloudy with fresh S. E. wind.

Starting at 8 and getting back at 9 A. M. I walked to the Stone farm along the old familiar cart path. It has changed greatly since the earlier years when we used to frequent it in search of birds and their nests. What was once a perfectly open sheep pasture beyond the bog at the rear of the Stone home is now for the most part grown up thickly to birches & aspens 25 or 30 feet in height. The openings among them were gay with flowers this morning, purple (*circulata*) & white (*bledda*) crocuses, dwarf cornel, white strawberry & double white birch the most numerous & conspicuous. The woods lying between this pasture & the Stone farm used to abound in fine old red ash aspens, balsams, hemlocks, "Ceras" rock maples and yellow birches but nearly all the larger trees & one extensive group of the conspicuous aspens have been cut and removed. On the Oak Linden Car Cove there are still dense growths of common trees thirty or forty feet in height. In these tracts I found nearly all the smaller birds that used to occur there but the number of species & individuals, alas, was very small when there were only hardwood trees. It shows the loss even of the best that one could see the last change. There & there were a few spruce chaffinch winter flocks & warblers & robins & crows. The road has been widened and most of the trees removed. It is grass grown everywhere now & not anywhere, as of yore, overgrown by trees.

When I came to the bog I looked at once for the big hemlock where I myself found the first Bog-busted Redstart's nest known to me. In my great delight it is still standing there and in perfect condition. I heard a Bog-busted Redstart 20 yards off this morning & four others along other stretches of this road.

Morning
walk along
road back
looking from
Stone home
to the
Stone farm.

Lake Umbagog.

1909.
June 10
(No 2)

During the walk to the Stone farm this morning I kept notes back & forth in hand holding every bird I saw or heard. They were as follows:-

Birds noted
on walk to
Stone farm

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <u>Robin</u> 1x. (Stone farm) | 29. <u>Blue Bird</u> 7x (Gy. caton) 2x |
| 2. <u>Swainson's Thrush</u> 3 (1x) | 30. <u>Least 7x Gy. caton</u> 1x |
| 3. <u>Herring</u> " 1 seen | 31. <u>Pied-bill</u> 1x |
| 4. <u>Wilson's</u> " 1 (Stone farm) | 32. <u>Crow</u> 5- |
| 5. <u>Chickadee</u> 2 (1x) | 33. <u>Broad winged Hawk</u> 2 |
| 6. <u>Brown Creeper</u> 1x | |
| 7. <u>Winter Wren</u> 1x | |
| 8. <u>Canada Nuthatch</u> 2 | |
| 9. <u>Black & White Creeper</u> 2x | |
| 10. <u>House Wren</u> 3x | |
| 11. <u>Black throated Blue Warbler</u> 6x | |
| 12. <u>Bay-breasted</u> " 5x | |
| 13. <u>Black-bellied</u> " 3x | |
| 14. <u>Black & Yellow</u> " 6x | |
| 15. <u>Yellow-rumped</u> " 1x | |
| 16. <u>Chimney-suck</u> " 1x | |
| 17. <u>Canada warbler</u> " 3x | |
| 18. <u>Thrush</u> 5x | |
| 19. <u>Orange Bird</u> 4x | |
| 20. <u>Water Thrush</u> 3x | |
| 21. <u>Red-eyed Vireo</u> 5x | |
| 22. <u>Solitary</u> " 2x | |
| 23. <u>Purple Finch</u> 5x | |
| 24. <u>White-throated Sparrow</u> 3x | |
| 25. <u>Chipping</u> " 2x | |
| 26. <u>Junco</u> 2 (1x) | |
| 27. <u>Downy Woodpecker</u> 1 | |
| 28. <u>Yellow-bellied</u> " 2 | |

Loake Umbagog.

1909.

June 10

(113)

In the woods traversed this morning I could find no year whistlers. It has all been eaten by the deer I suppose. In view of its apparently total absence I was surprised to note the young Black-throated Blue Grosbeaks. I wonder when they can leave their nests. I heard them singing in places where there were almost no whistlers of any kind. One had a peculiar song consisting of two notes only, both in the same key - wee-wee I wrote it in my note book.

Black-throated
Blue Grosbeak

Pearson's Song

In the Stone pasture I found a number of young Bart's firs growing on an open sandy knoll fully 100 yards from the lake. Probably these trees were originally confined to the lake shores because there only could they find (on rocky ledges especially) a chance to establish themselves & to get light & air. Since it is evident they do not thrive in the depths of the forest. But whatever reason has made a clearing they seem to spring up in places remote from water as at the old Tyler farm where they are numerous, covering fully a quarter of a mile from the lake.

Bart's
fir

The wild red cherry is now in full bloom & making a brown show along roadsides & wood edges.

A bear flew over us high up early this morning. I hear there are now deer in the lake near R. Point yesterday. A native hunter that at is with his rifle & cut down feathers from its wing or back. The last predatory beast in Maine was reported last winter.

Bears

Loake Umbagog.

1909.

June 11

Clear & warm with fresh westerly winds. A great singing day for Birds & Batrachians of almost any kind.

This must be about the height of the nuptial season of most of the smaller birds. They sang all day long, almost without rest but more ecstatically at morning & evening. The wooded shores of our little cove fairly rang at times with their voices. I heard then most of the species found about this part of the Lake. It was one of the most delightful concerts I have listened to for years. Among other interesting species were the Bay-brown Warbler, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Winter Wren. I saw a Pileolated Woodpecker, a pair of Hooded Merganser, a Bald Eagle, a Red-throated Hawk (singing & screaming), a Herring Gull on the Lake, a ♀ White-throat in the Cove. The muskrats were out nearly all day. One swam in directly under the gunwale of my canoe & then down to pass under her keel. This happened half an hour after sunrise.

A Duck followed by a brood of 8 or 10 young appeared off the mouth of the Cove about 6 P.M. I did not identify her satisfactorily but she looked like a Gadwall. She dove repeatedly & the young raced off one the surface of the water - this when she descended and boat. I counted 6 canoes & followed her but the Lake was rough & I did not see her again.

At evening I paddled about for an hour or more over the flooded meadows visiting the remains of the floating island where the Batrachians used to breed. The Quakers are not dead & the island is again floating. It is still covered with green alders & Carex was in full bloom. There was also a little Rhus of which I found a large patch in full bloom & making a deep mass of color, on another island.

Breeding
season at
its height

Interesting
birds.

Dealt with
brood of
young

The floating
island where
Batrachians
used to
nest.

Loake Umbagog.

1909.
June 11
(No 2)

Song of
Pine
Burnet

Shortly after sunset a Pine Burnet perched in the top of a white pine near the lake shore on the hill behind the Lake House sang practically without cessation for fully five minutes. Its song was not unlike that of a Goldfinch but feebler, higher pitched, and decidedly less musical, most of the notes having a willy or a muttish quality. At times it reminded me strongly of the long whistling song of the Raven Swallow which I had several chances to compare it directly for two or three of these swallows kept circling overhead before the Burnet had ceased singing.

The Common Loake still keep up a fairly deafening clatter all night and nearly all day. Never before have I heard them

Loake,
Hyas &
Bullfrogs.

There are both prodigious numbers & for ~~so~~ long a period. I have heard no Fowler's Loake & doubt if they come here.

Hyas by hundreds were jumping all through the evening & well into the night. Bullfrogs croaked in every direction about sunset. There were at least three in one corner.

Loake Umbagog.

1909.

June 11

(No 3)

Eight Browned Greckles spent most of the day in one cove flying to & from it from their island in Stony Brook Cove. It was not at all surprising them interesting to see them caught in a boat along the basin ledge at the entrance to one cove waiting for food to drift their way from the home boat. He supplied it in plenty & they would have fairly gaped themselves. They would intercept it long before it reached the basin and have one it as they picked the fragments from the surface of the water. They seem to be becoming more expert & daring at this practice daily. % - day I saw them dip their legs to the depths in the water & especially one immersed the lower half of its body, also, apparently floating on the water for an instant. The food was invariably taken up in the bill, however, when a bird secured a piece he was often chased by another but in no instance ~~lost~~ of his piece.

Browned
Greckles
"fishing" for
food.

Loake Umbagog.

1909.
June 11
(No 5)

Broad-wing
Hawks

Broad-winged Hawks are far more numerous here this spring than I have ever known them to be in former years. They haunt the Lake shore, probably to prey on the Common Loos which are now rising & spawning in the Lake in fairly considerable numbers.

The Broad-wing is by all odds the most sluggish and the least of our Falconidae. A pair which I have seen spend most of their time perched on sticks near our boat. They soar & descend frequently but only just above the tops of the trees and for but a few minutes at a time. Most of the Hawks of this species that I have met with here this year have shown little or no fear of me permitting me to approach them within 10 yards or less. They seem to universally make a loud fluttering sound

when they take wing. They perch low down on the water when waiting for prey. I have only two children with me.

Lake Umbagog.

1909.

June 11

(No 41)

Swinson's
Thrush

Swinson's Thrushes are given as numerous in the woods bordering the southern end of the Lake as they were when I first knew it, despite the disappearance of the large amount of timber formerly common there. They are singing now on all houses but more freely at morning & evening, earlier & later than most other birds. I enjoy their songs exceedingly & am inclined to rate them higher than any other Thrush notes except that of the Hermit. There is a peculiar rich, guttural, rolling quality to their voices. Besides the song I hear the ti-chaa-a-a call (which I cannot certainly distinguish from that of the Veery though as closely similar) the peewee or pink and a high, twitter, rather warbling piping note given at short regular intervals and not so very unlike the piping of a Hyla but less clear & musical. This last named call is seldom given except at morning & evening.

Lake Umbagog.

1909.

June 12

Cloudless but densely smoky from distant forest fires. Warm with fresh westerly winds.

Although the weather conditions were clearly similar to those of yesterday the birds sang comparatively little and without much spirit, even on morning & evening. Perhaps the smokes may have deterred them. One could smell, as well as see, it. It did not seriously depress the Parus, however. At morning & evening the chorus of Towhees and Wheats drowned all other sounds and almost made one's ears ache. These 7's have been behaving funny, too. I heard a few Green 7's late evening & there.

Smother-laden
air silences
birds:

Parus
voices

The shade bush has shed its blossoms & set its fruit and the blossoms of the wild red cherry are fading. Those of the Rhodod. are nearly gone. Rhodod. is making a beautiful show about the Carroll house. Its flowers are from deep rose color here & much finer in very very thin in those about. In the fields & pastures the clover is now in bloom as is also the wild Thymus. The ground is heavy with in places with thin pretty blossoms. Dandelions are nearly out of bloom. Violets still adorn many of the margin places. Irises are past or at least I have seen none in bloom of color.

Wild flowers

A night Hawk came over on the evening fly very high and fast but it did not buzz. A 7's Hawk and a Herring Gull were circling over the flooded marshes about the lawn house.

The Call is largely swarming with Horned Ponds about one half grown. They collect about one bush and clear a pretty much any kind of food that is thrown into the water.

Horned
Ponds.

A Musk Rat has taken possession of my flaming boat house.

Lake Umbagog.

1909.

June 12

(No 2.)

I added a new bird to the Umbagog list this forenoon - a Field Sparrow which I heard sing a dozen times or more about 100 yards north-east of the Lake House in a hilly pasture (formerly belonging to the Abbotts farm) growing up to young spruces. The bird was perched in one of these & within twenty yards of me but I failed to see him until he took wing and flew off over some tall spruces on the crest of the hill in the direction of the Lake. His song was loud, ringing and in every way unusual.

Jim Mc. Brad tells me that Bald Eagles are very scarce this year. Thus far I have seen but two (or perhaps ten downy bird chicks). I find the nestor birds with which the Lake is now infested are during off their interesting & picturesque birds are they certainly on the shores and also, I am told, the Marsh Ducks of which I have seen none at all.

Field
Sparrows
added to
Umbagog
list.

Loake Umbagog.

1909.

June 12
(Sat)

Tyler Bog

in full bloom to-day. But the Cassandras had just shed its last blossoms. Above these lovely growths rise black spruces and cedars, singly or in scattered groups, to heights varying from 5 or 6 to 15 or 20 feet. Many of them are mistletoes, as well as shrubs, and green only from 2 to 5 feet down from their tops, all the branches below this being dead and thickly draped in masses of a dark brownish color, appearing black in certain lights, in others rich dead brown. This gives the trees a weird and somewhat funeral aspect as if they were all in mourning. About its outskirts, where the land begins to rise slightly, the bog is bordered by cedar swamps and just back of this where the forest begins are still better trees, chiefly black spruces and cedars 40 to 50 feet in height, intermingled with a few red spruces and sapling white pines. Beyond them again one comes to the mixed growths of conifers and deciduous ones common to high well drained lands throughout the Umbagog Region.

There were many deer tracks and one well defined deeply worn deer path, in this bog. In muddy places I saw a few rabbit tracks.

Within the confines of the bog proper I noted the following birds: - Swainson's Thrush 1x, Winter Wren 1x, Canada Warbler 1, Nashville Warbler 1x, Black & Yellow Warbler 1x, Maryland Yellow-Throat 1x, Solitary Vireo 1x, Cedar Bird (heard), Purple Finch 1x, Junco 1x, Rusty Blackbird 2, Blue Jay (heard only), Olive-backed Flycatcher 1x, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 2, Arctic Red-tail Warbler (crouching & tapping head, September 1, Hummingbird (perched on top of dead spruce near middle of bog) Spruce Partridge (?) heard drumming? - in all eight species

Loake Umbagog.

1909

June 12.
(No 5)

I have queried the Sparrow Pouteridge ~~was~~ because I did not see it and am not sure that the sound I heard was really made by this species. At first I took it to be the drumming of a Ruffed Grouse in the distance but after I reached the outskirts of the dense cedar swamp, whence it came, apparently from within thirty or forty yards of me, I remembered the description of the drumming of the Sparrow Pouteridge given me by Nelson Stone and others among the cabin folk of this region and what they had described seemed to me the very sound I was now listening to. It was not unlike the terminal roll of the Ruffed Grouse but less resonant and more like the heavy fluttering of wings. There was no pecking, no side-spread, thrashing beats but simply one even, uniform fluttering, very distinct at probably 50 yards. I heard it

Drumming of
Sparrow(?)
Pouteridge?

repeated 7 or 8 times at intervals of a minute or two each. I was unable to locate the bird exactly & failed to find it afterwards.

Lake Umbagog.

1909.

June 13

Forenoon sunny & warm. Afternoon cloudy, evening rainy. Strong S. W. wind.

Another great singing day. Many of the swallow birds were heavily silent from daylight to dark. The swallows were denser than it was yesterday. Loons and Hglos belated through the better hours but making a prodigious racket after sunset & into the night. Balanochloris

I am having a fine opportunity here to study and compare the songs of the Hermit, the Swainson's and the Wilson's Thrushes. Songs of the
Hermit,
Swainson's
& Wilson's
Thrushes
compared

The Swainson's is much the more persistent singer of the three, being often heard at all hours of the day whereas the other two species are nearly always silent from morning to evening. Scarcely but surely I am coming to the conviction that the Swainson's is the finest songster, also. It is undeniable that his best notes do not equal the best that the Hermit can produce but unlike the Hermit he utters no notes which are not musical and his song, as a whole, is, to my ears, more finished and satisfactory. There is, moreover, much less difference in individual merit among the different individuals. Very many Hermits are decidedly inferior performers,

Lake Umbagog.

1909
June 13
(No 2/)

almost trying to listen to. It is only one bird, perhaps, one of a
dozen which is really a finished ^{musician} ~~performer~~ and he is worth
going a long way to hear. The Swainson's themselves, on the
other hand, all sing so nearly alike that it is difficult
to distinguish one from another and all are delightful and
impassioned vocalists. There are two notes that answer one
another across the placid waters of our little cove, at morning &
evening and more or less through the day. Their rich contralto
voices fill our winter delight and grow on our day by day,
they are so perfectly controlled and modulated and so full
of dignity and calm, ~~firm~~. When one only bird joins in
the concert his voice sounds thin and trifling by comparison.

On the whole I am inclined to conclude that within a really
fine Hermit's song is more thrilling and elevating than that
of any Swainson's Thrush the latter is a better average songster.

Certainly I should prefer him to the Hermit and infinitely to the
beary, to have near me all the time

Thrush songs
compared.

Lake Umbagog.

1909.

June 13

(No 3)

The Redstart occurs here during the breeding season almost local
if not quite as frequently among coniferous trees on high ground distribution
as in deciduous groves along streams & lake shores. There of
are several nests scattered about through the dense thickets
of young spruces in the hill pastures behind the Lake House
& I have no doubt these nests are well filled on nests
in these trees. I find the Redstart in old spruce timber,
also, & I remember seeing it in former years on ledges
at some distance back from the Lake. It is very common.

Alva Caridge tells me that he has been within the Black Duck
past week seen a Black Duck in B. Pond. He thinks
it has a nest there. He found a nest ^(with 9 eggs) several years ago
on a rocky island only a few yards square, but covered with
low bushes, in this pond. There were five or six old nests
on the island & only a foot or two apart.
Alva Caridge has seen no Snipe in B. Pond this
year. He knows that a pair have nested for several years
past on the western side of the island in Burnside Pond.

Loake Umbagog.

1909.
June 14

Clear & warm with fresh N. W. wind.

The wood birds song freely at nearly all houses.

I paid little attention, however, to any thing except a family of Whistlers of which there were seven.

Then a Large Brown Eagle came over the Cove balancing & soaring in the brilliant sunset wind.

The Minketeers were seen only a few times.

One of them has captured a family to my thinking better than in which I have been "flushing" the water at all houses of the neighborhood.

Fogs & Hazes were absent through the day but they began their usual clamor about sunset and now (9 P.M.) it is simply deepening.

Most of the forest trees are now covered with foliage but those leaves are not fully grown as yet.

The Swamp ash trees are only beginning to leaf out.

Lake Umbagog.

1909.

Jan 14

(No 2)

A female Whistler followed by either 11 or 12 young^{*}
^{*} We counted them many times after this was written & made sure there were 11
(it was difficult to count them accurately) entered our sheltered

Whistler
young

little cove at 8.30 this morning. She was a large bird with
light brown head and entirely black or blackish bill. The young
were about the size of newly-hatched Plymouth Rock chickens
and certainly not more than a week old, if as much as that.

When I first saw them they were about 60 yards from the
house boat, swimming in single file, but literally touching
one another, in the wake of the mother, the leading young bird
being perhaps two feet behind her. In this order the little family
party cruised back and forth in open water for several minutes
the mother bird keeping her head and neck stretched up and
evidently devoting her entire attention to the house boat
which she seemed to regard with not a little suspicion.

But as I had called my two men into the cabin and
as everything remained quiet for awhile the mother Whistler

Loake Umbagog.

1909.

June 14

(no 3)

soon led her brood into calm, shallow water close under the overhanging branches of the trees and bushes that fringe the shore. Here began one of the very prettiest and most interesting scenes in bird life that it has ever been my privilege to witness. First the mother disappeared beneath the surface, as I supposed to obtain food for her young. But the latter, to my infinite surprise, quickly followed her example, after scattering over a space of four or five square yards. Sometimes five or six at once, often following one another in rapid succession, they down and down and down again with all the energy and decision of an old bird. Sometimes they descended quietly, without much apparent effort, clearing the water like a feather & leaving behind a ripple, but much oftener they sprang forward and upward almost clear of the surface, showing a strong arch to the line of the back and neck, and kicking up tiny jets of frothing

Loake Umbagog.

1909

June 14

(No 4)

spray with their feet just as they were lost to view.

When they reappeared they invariably came up with the body horizontal and the head and neck at right angles to it, bobbing up like so many corks suddenly released from below and rising by their extreme buoyancy and imperious appetency above the level of their normal "water line" before settling back to them again. Quite evidently they were getting their own breakfasts, without the slightest assistance or even direction from their mother, who, indeed, was often busily engaged in obtaining food for herself at some distance from them. At least I could not see that she paid much attention to them or gave them signals of any kind when she certainly did not offer them any of the food which she must have secured. By degrees the mother & young wandered slowly down along the shore until they were all within less than 40 yards of our big boat. After I

Loake Umbagog.

1909

June 14
(No 5)

could now watch them to great advantage through my glass for they were in smooth, open water, although close to shore, and the sunlight struck full on them. Still further on they came to a quantity of driftwood among which the ducklings scattered rather widely still diving for their food, however, and making no attempt to glean it from the mossy, water-soaked logs and floating trash of various kinds as the young of surface-feeding waterfowl like the Black Duck and Wood Duck would doubtless have done. Whenever one of the young *Habia* became widely separated and lost to view of the rest it would sit up a thin, shrill, note peep-peep-peep - very like that of a young Turkey and presently would appear running over the surface with surprising speed with almost its entire body except the hinder end quite clear of the water. Sometimes the entire brood would send them, for a distance of several yards, to regain their

Loake Umbagog.

1909.

June 14

(No 6)

parents like a string of dry leaves blowing over the water before a strong wind. The broad, rounded white spots or patches on the sides of the head of the young showed conspicuously at all times, even when the birds were otherwise invisible, in deep shadows, among some overhanging bank or leafy branch.

After watching the brood of Whistlers for more than half-an-hour I reluctantly give permission to my men to resume their work. Just then, I had begun nailing a pole to the side of the cabin making a great racket in the quiet, land-locked cove. In our infinite surprise the Whistlers paid little attention to this, merely showing a few reds flutters along the shore. An hour later, when the men were inside the cabin again, the brood with their mother emerged from the shrubs at the head of the cove and swam quietly towards us until they were within less than 20 yards of the house boat. Here

Isake Umbagog.

1909

June 14

(No 7)

They busied themselves among some floating logs & in the open water on one side of them for perhaps half an hour. while I sat in a reclining chair on deck keeping them under my glass. It seemed incredible that birds so persecuted and ordinarily so wary here could have so quickly become so very tame & confident. When one of the men walked along the deck they usually retreated a few yards & once Jim paddled a boat astern without driving them much further back among the boats. Although not apparently playful the young were as active & energetic as so many are. diving incessantly for food and swimming to & fro. Whenever they came to a floating log they would spring directly from the water to its top, a total distance of perhaps a foot & a vertical rise of 5 or 6 inches. They moved over logs and drift wood as nimbly as mice sometimes by running, sometimes by a succession of flip-like

Loake Umbagog.

1909

June 14
(H&K)

jumped where intervening spaces of water had to be cleared.

The mother whistles also crossed legs and dipped head but in a more sedate manner, wallowing easily & rather gracefully with none of the waddling motion of a common duck but with the body carried smoothly, is horizontally.

Six of the young finally ranged themselves in a row in the sun on a floating log and spent some time then preening their feathers while the last of the brood with the mother continued feeding. During this period the young kept up a low conversational peeping or twittering while the mother answered them every now & then with a guttural crooning, almost growling, krur-krur-kr-1-1-1.

Once when startled by something on the boat she gave a loud, high-pitched squeak unlike anything I have heard the whistler utter before. When swimming at ease and slowly she habitually swung her head & neck

Lake Umbagog.

1909
June 14
(No 9)

forward & back precisely like a mud hen (Tibet)
She dove with admirable ease and grace spreading her
tail wide and slightly parting the tip & terminal third of
the wing from the side of the body just as she
disappeared. As the water was very shallow (about 3 ft.)
she had not far to go and she barely remained under
more than 8 or 10 seconds and often not over 5.

(The young kept under fully as long). Then I saw her
bring up something of a vegetable character that looked
like a strand of eel grass. This she shook about
violently in her bill & finally swallowed without
offering it to the young parcel of which were close
about her. Nor did they show any interest in her
success. The brood swam out through the open
channel at the west of the island and were lost
to our view, shortly before noon.

Lake Umbagog.

1909.

June 14

(No 10)

About 3 P. M. the Whistler mother and her young
rapproched off the main entrance to one corner outside the boom
of logs that closed it. At first they were close in under the
bow of the island but the mother soon started out into
the lake where the wind was blowing about a gale and
white caps rolling high. The young followed her for about
fifty yards. For a time they seemed to enjoy the buffeting
^{(which tossed them up & down like chips}
of the big waves ^{they} and down down a few times for food.
But they soon became alarmed or apprehensive and turned
back toward the mother. She called & called (the keen call)
to reassure them but they kept on to the island & she
finally followed them. As she was swimming in another about
fifty yards she swept down & hauled over her a murret
but did not alight. After the mother had joined her
young she started straight for the boom. It is ~~then~~ four
logs wide with spaces of one or two feet between the logs.

Loake Umbagog.

1909

June 14

(no 11)

When she came to it she dove and emerged on the other side. The chuckings climbed or rather sprang to the top of the water log and then jumped in quick succession, one following another very closely, over the space of them. The height of their leaps seemed to be quite as much as ~~the~~ 2 ft. made one of which was fully 4 feet wide. The little birds did this with the utmost apparent ease & precision alighting on the logs without the least loss of balance. They looked for all the world like a merry flock chasing one another. The final leap was from the ^{front} ~~front~~ log to the calm water inside the boom which they struck as lightly as falling leaves. Of all the things I saw there this day this was the very prettiest & most interesting. The mother now swam over and over the chuckings following her in single file each with his bill just touching the bird in front of him and bill of the leader touching the tail of the mother. Between them was no visible gap whatever.

Lake Umbagog.

1909

June 14

(No. 12)

in this string of swimming birds. They followed the same course around the shore of the cove which they had taken on their former diving excursion, and again entered the flooded ashes and reeds at the head of the cove. Here I lost sight of them for half an hour. At the end of that time the mother attracted my attention from my writing by giving the peculiar squeak sound which is so common. This note was repeated several times with ever increasing shrillness until it became almost a shriek somewhat hoarse and cracked in tone. Feeling sure that something must be wrong I watched intently but for a time could see nothing. Finally the mother crossed a space of open water unattended by any of her young. A moment later a large brown bird, evidently a Hawk of some kind, swept down on its wings and as it reached about the head of the cove disappeared behind the trunk of a large tree.

Loake Umbagog.

1909.

July 14

(No 13)

I felt sure that it must have started at some very early
time daylight & also that it had originated there. Just as it
appeared the weather broke the windmill has only and actually
flew to meet it passing out of my view around the trees
where I could hear her thrashing the water with her wings
and shrieking louder than ever. Half a minute later she
came flying towards the boat and dropped into the water
just outside the tent. Among other things I saw some several
of the ducklings swimming from one driftwood came to
another with flattened heads & backs, occasionally diving.

One after another came in view until I had counted the
last number, eleven, much to my relief. They continued
shuffling & hiding and the water kept up the shrieking
cry which is evidently a note of warning to the young.
Some five minutes later the bird of prey was seen
behind the trunk where I had last sight of it & flew

Snake Umbagog.

1909.

July 14.
(1864)

off one tree. As it did so I saw that it was
a female Broad-winged Hawk, no doubt one of the
pair which are frequenting our camp. I believe that the
whistles alone at its appearance was wholly uncalculated for
and that it nearly started at and caught some
Hogback Sparrow. Certainly it was not less than
a mile and even its prey on the day I was behind
(it had nothing in its talons when it flew away),
the big tree trunk, otherwise it would not have been
likely to remain there for more than five minutes.
At all events it did not get one of the ducklings
for we counted eleven of them many times this
forenoon and many times again after the Hawk
had gone. As soon as it disappeared the Broad-winged
and with their mother spent nearly half an hour
swimming about within less than 20 yards of the
horn boat. On this occasion I saw nothing new except

Lake Umbagog.

1909

July 14
(W 15)

during a period of two or three minutes when the young spread out over a space covered with floating grass torn up by the muskrats and swam back and forth through it very rapidly carrying their heads low and apparently dabbling among the grass with their bills as if seeking food in this way after the manner of surface feeding Ducks. Another matter that interested me was the fact that one of the muskrats appeared at this time and swam past the boat within a few yards without causing the least apparent alarm either to them or their water.

About five o'clock the White family went out through the open channel again & that was the last I saw of them to-day.

The preceding notes were written at various times through the day, many of them while the things they describe had only just happened.

Lake Umbagog.

1909.

June 16

Clear with strong W. wind through day and light S. E. breeze at evening. Early morning cool & breezy. Middle of day very warm.

Most of the forest trees except the black ash are now in
moss or quite full leaf. Sycamores are just coming into blossom.
The blossoms of the apple and Rhodora are fading and many
of the petals have fallen. Bird cherry still in flower. Driftwood
mosses are at its best. The blossoms form belts of snowy whiteness
along the borders of wood paths & around openings in the woods.
The Canada Elder is out of flower. Nettle tops in full blossom.
A few dandelion blossoms still showing in the fields & pastures.
Wild strawberry just its prime.

Vegetation.

The nuptial concerts of the Common Loon are fast becoming Boobies.
But I hear their trilling in a few places about the Lake
this evening. Its notes already become with their tiny black
coverts. Bullfrogs bellowing in every direction after sunset.
They are almost as numerous this season as they were thirty
odd years ago. Green Frogs are about equally common but
not so full cry as yet. I hear no Fowler's Frogs & doubt
if they occur here.

I have seen a few Ephemerids daily ever since my
arrival but they have not been numerous previous to yesterday
when I noted them by dozens. This evening the air over
the Lake, even in the middle of the frock woods, was
swarming with them. They did not dip in the water
at all but soared & hovered and drifted about 6 to 10 feet
above it. My canoe tail was literally covered with them
at times. All seemed to be of one kind a small, dark-colored
that I do not see in summer or autumn.

Ephemerids.

Loake Umbagog.

1909.

July 16
(No 2)

At evening I paddled up the north shore of the forested meadow as far as the stem farm. In the narrow deep cove just this side of it I heard something flushing in the water and on over thought of a Deer. A moment later a large one appeared in full view about 30 yards off. He saw me as soon as I did him and bounded off at once flushing his long white-bellied tail.

Evening
paddled &
saw one
Antelope
Rune meadow
Deer seen

I next crossed to the south shore. All the companies there have been recently cut at the place where I approached the land but there are many large fine yellow birches left. They stand in rows about water fields of spruce tops & dark sapling birches covering the ground. Here I heard large numbers of birds singing, among them a Herring Gull, a Winter Wren, 2 Parula Birds, 2 Swainson's Thrushes, a Purple Finch, a Robin etc. Two Sapsuckers were chewing, two Winter Wrens singing, an Olive-backed Flycatcher calling.

Morning
Wren

I looked all the way back before a light breeze that blew straight forward to my ears, at a distance of fully a quarter of a mile, the songs of most of the birds just mentioned.

When I returned on shore a Hermit was in full song on the island and two Hawks were calling in the hills, the green grass between.

I must confess that the Hermit loved this song in one way for the two Swainson's Thrushes who were singing at the same time called "in the shade". Perhaps the Eastern birds were too far off. One must be very near a Swainson's (not over 40 yds.) to fully appreciate the beauty of his song. It is not so with the Hermit. His own sounds as well 100 yds. away as it does near at hand.

Songs of
Hermit &
Swainson's
Thrush
compared.

Loake Umbagog.

1909.
June 17

Forenoon sunny & very warm. Afternoon cloudy. Evening rainy. Violent South wind all day killing our descent.

The Loaks were silent all day and this evening I hear only one or two out intervals. A number of Hops are jumping but not continuously. The Green Frogs are trug-truging all about the shores of the Loch. Their voices are somewhat different from those we hear at home - deeper and more guttural, I should say. The Bull Frogs have been silent all day & this evening. I wonder if there are any Deer Loaks here! I have heard none this season and cannot remember hearing any in former years.

Observations

At no time during the day were there less than five or six Grackles in our camp and the number sometimes was ten or a dozen. We supply them beautifully with fragments of bread & other refuse food which drops about where they now get it among the grass seldom having one it. They take most of it to the island by the boat-house, no doubt for their young. They get bolder & bolder. Yesterday several of them alighted on the house boat and walked about as has been doing into the campfire room where we were at dinner. The males still puff out their feathers and utter their croaking notes about as frequently & ardently as in early spring. Late this afternoon they set up a great outcry in the woods on the island at the mouth of the cove when a clashed Robin joined them. The clamor kept increasing until it was fairly ear-splitting. At length the cause of the uproar was revealed when a shred-voiced Hawk (the 5 with ragged wings that haunts the ever-green forest with the whole mob of Hawks but by the Robin, in that forest. I wonder if they have come for this habit of the shred wing

Brown
Grackles

Loake Umbagog.

1909
June 18

Clear & very cool with a fresh gale of wind from N. W. which increased, instead of diminished, at sunset. At 9 P.M., as I write this, it is blowing harder than ever and our house boat strains at her cables & threatens to force them although we still lie in our sheltered little cove. Never have I known the Lake rougher, even in autumn. Great white capped waves race across the flooded meadows of Cambridge River and the birches & poplars along the shores bow down like stalks of grain before the furious blast. I should think that the trains which so often come in there would have little chance of saving their eggs under such conditions.

Birds sang rather freely about our cove in the early morning when there was comparatively little wind but they ceased with almost total silence as the day wore on. When I visited the Hyatt Bay at 4 P.M. it was silent as the grave there. Indeed I heard only three birds during this walk, a Canadian Warbler singing, a Sapsucker twailing and a Hairy Grackle calling.

The ordinary call of the Sapsucker is best described I think by the term "twail". It has a peculiar, irritable quality suggesting that the bird is in a fit of impatience. The resemblance to the scream of the Horned Lark which some writers have noted is not close. The Sapsucker's note is lower & less resonant. It reminds me more of the mew of the Cat-bird but is not nearly like that, either.

Call-note of
Sapsucker

A few Hyatts are peeping in the distance as I write. I have heard no other Batrachians to-day.

Loake Umbagog.

1909.

June 20

A warm day sunny for the most part but with clouds driving across. The day began a violent S. W. wind.

With Chapman & Nichols I went up into the Forest on
this forenoon in Alex's motor boat. He saw 5 Great Blue
Hawks. There but no Ducks nor Eagles nor Fish Hawks.
Barnard turned over at the head of Great Island, near
on the little island in the bay where I found a Black
Buck in 1897. There is some fine open & shagbark
oak on Great Island and here we found birds
very numerous, especially Song-Sparrows & Chickadees.
When the crows there have been out, as in the case nearly
everywhere else about the Lake, there are but few birds
of any kind.

At evening Chaperon & I walked to Ten Eyck Mts. As we were following a road lead over the crest of the hill on the old Otis farm is situated a ♀ housewife from the north. She flew only a few yards & then began beating her wings on the ground at the same time keeping up a low moaning note similar to that of a Cat bird. This was evidently designed to attract our notice to her & to lead us away from her young. We stood still & she then came fluttering & began to run about uttering a wholly different sound, very shrill-like in character & closely resembling the low conversational quavery tone Black Ducks make when a number are foraging in company. This we interpreted as a note of warning to the young. Cudding then kept still. He could find only one of them, a bird as large as a Pileolated Tit and much darker than the winged grail preceding. It sat on the ground in the path with head & neck up like a bird on the nest a remarkably beautiful little creature. Not a muscle did it even when we stepped over it.

Lake Umbagog.

1909.
June 22

Clear & warm with fresh west wind.

About 7 a.m., before the wind had risen, a fine Loon in fully adult plumage surprised us by appearing in our little cove, which is now almost everywhere grass-grown owing to the recent fall of water. When I first saw the bird it was swimming through the grass about 50 yards away, having evidently come in through the channel behind the island. It did not seem to notice the house boat as first. Although several of us were standing about the dock looking. After making one short dive it finally retreated through the channel. We saw it afterwards and saw on the flooded meadow. The water in our cove is now less than 2 ft deep.

As Chapman & I were paddling past the Boat House landing about 8 a.m. a Ring-necked Plover alighted &

Ring-necked
Plover

remained for a few minutes on a sandy beach at the edge of the water & only a few yards from the house. The bird was in adult plumage but not a highly colored Greenish. That could it be coming from the other shore.

Loake Umbagog.

1909

June 22
(No 2)

9.30 P.M. During the past half hour I have heard at least six times, at intervals of about five minutes each, the chirp note of a least Flycatcher coming from the woods in close to the house east in which I am writing. On each occasion this note has been given only once and in rather faint, guttural tones suggesting that the bird when uttering it has been very sleepy & perhaps not really awake. While pursuing the above direction I heard the call twice at intervals of less than two minutes each. Now it came again & then two other times notes. I do not recall ever before hearing the chirp note after dark. The twilight is still & warm (another chirp note) with slight dry but otherwise uninteresting (another chirp) in the distance.

Least
Flycatcher
singing
in night

An Eastern Screecher in the nest was making a continuous chattering odd note of cry almost exactly like that of a young Cow Blackbird at the same time nodding her head up & down constantly, as the Cowbird does. She or he was a fairly adult bird with creamy white feathers. Her note is said to be

B. L. = Bethel to Lakeside
L. = Region about Lakeside
L. H. = " " Lake House
U. H. = " " Upper Hill
C. R. = Camanche River above Hill
G. J. = Region about Great Id.
P. P. = " " Pine Point
O. = " " Outlet
M. = Lower Magalloway
Bark Unloading

1909.

June

Sialia sialis

B. B. & L.H.
 12 24 11¹/₂ hour in air 23 ♀ feeding young in nest in old Woodhouse (bellows)
 overhanging hole in forest crotch on B. Point near Pond.
 24 5 ad. birds, 18 eggs
 24 10 ad. birds

Merula migratoria

1. Storia 14 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Turdus pallasii

2¹* 3⁵* 4¹* 9¹* 10²* 11¹* (Pawnee Spring) 16²* 19²* 20²* 23⁴* 24²*

" Swainson

31¹ 4¹ 7¹ 8¹ 9¹ 10¹ 11¹ 12¹ 13¹ 14¹ 15¹ 16¹ 17¹ 18¹
 20¹ 21¹ 22¹ 23¹ 24¹

10 *fasciculus*

[illegible]

Regulus Satrapa

4' 5' 20'

Parus atricapillus

C.R. L.H. L.H. 2⁹
6' 10² 11' 20²

heads on one

C.R.
6' about 1/4 mile
above dam.

Sitta carolinensis

" Canadensis

C.R. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. G.J. G.R.
6⁶ 8² 9¹ 10²_※ 11¹ 12² 20¹ 21¹

Certhia americana

C.R. L# g.g. C.R.
6²₈ 10¹₈ 20¹₈ 21²₁₈

Trogodytes aide

E B.
1' 2'

Anastasia Heimann

C.R. L.H. L.H. J.L.B. L.H. 9.9 L.H. 10.10
6 10 11 (one on knee behind knee) 12 16 (one on knee behind knee) 20 21 23

Galucosptes carolinensis

B. B. A. G. G. H. L. H. L. H. L. H. L. H. L. H. North Beach P.

Setophaga ruticilla

$$\frac{B}{1\frac{2}{3}2}$$

1909.
June

Loach Umbagog.

Ministella varia B. L. C.R. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H.
1* 4* 6* 9* 10* 11* 12* 13* 16* 20* 19* 21* 22* 24*

Helminthophila rubricapila B. B.L. L. L. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H.
1* 2* 3* 4* 8* 9* 12* 14* 15* 16* 19* 20*
21* 23* 24*

" *pergrina*

Compsothlypis usneae B. B.L. L. L. L.H. C.R. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H.
1* 2* 3* 4* 5* 6* 7* 8* 9* 10* 11* 12* 13* 15* 16*
19* 20* 21*

Dendroica tigrina C.R. just before June. Head only.
6* in full of June song.
in long catapillars.

" *nestiva* B. B. L. (Sum. hd. in Canada plum L. L. in bottom of pond)
1* 2* 3* bushes near hotel. 4* 19* by water.

" *caeruleus* L.H. L. L. L.H. C.R. L.H. L.H. L.H. L. L. L.H.
2* 3* 4* 5* 6* 10* 11* 12* 19* 20* 21*

" *coronata* B. B.L. L. L. L.H. C.R. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H.
1* 2* 3* 4* 5* 6* 8* 9* 10* 13* 14* 19* 20* 23* 24*

" *maculosa* B.L. L. L. L.H. L.H. C.R. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H.
2* 3* 4* 5* 6* 8* 9* 10* 11* 12* 14* 13* 14* 15* 16*
17* 18* 19* 20* 21* 22* 23* 24*

" *pennsylvanica* B. B.L. L. L. C.R. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H.
1* 2* 3* 4* 6* 8* 9* 10* 16* 17* 19* 21* 24*

" *castanea* L.H. C.R. L.H. Con L.H. do L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H.
2* 6* 7* 9* 10* 11* 12* 14* 15* 16* 17* 20*
21* 22* 23* 24*

" *striata* L.H. L.H.
2* 5* 6*

" *blackburnia* B.L. L.H. C.R. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H.
2* 4* 6* 8* 9* 10* 11* 12* 13* 14* 15* 16* 17*
20* 21* 22* 24*

" *viridis* B.
1*

Sinus amrocaellus L. L. C.R. near L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H.
3* 4* 6* 7* 8* 9* 10* 11* 12* 14* 16* 20* 21*

" *noveboracensis* L. L.H. L.H. C.R. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H.
3* 4* 5* 6* 7* 8* 9* 10* 11* 12* 13* 16* 17*
20* 21* 22* 23* 24*

June

" Trichas B.B.L. L. C.R. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. Tye Bay⁶ L. L.H. C.R.
1¹/₂* 2²/₃* 3¹/₄* 4¹/₂* 6¹/₂* 8¹/₂* 9¹/₂* 10¹/₂* 11¹/₂* 12¹/₂* 19¹/₂* 20¹/₂* 21¹/₂* 1¹/₂*

Sylvia canadensis 2^{2.5}₃ 4^{2.5}₃ 6^{2.5}₃ 8^{2.5}₃ 9^{2.5}₃ 10^{2.5}₃ 11^{2.5}₃ 12^{2.5}₃ 13^{2.5}₃ 14^{2.5}₃ 15^{2.5}₃ 16^{2.5}₃ 17^{2.5}₃

Sceloporus uticilla

Pine olivaceus

" Phoca delphinus ^{8.} 4' _✱ identified by song only

" gilvus B. 1²_x B. 2³_x H.B. 3^(one near Secondary)_x B. 24^{7/8}

1. Solitarius. L. L.H. C.R. new L.H. L.H. Lyden Bay. L.H. L.H.
3 1/2 6 1/2 10 2 11 12 17 21

Ampelis cedrorum ^{B.} 1² ^{B-L} 2⁴⁰ mostly in pairs ^{L.} 3⁽²⁾ C.R. 6⁴ 9⁴ L. 11² 12⁴ L. 13⁴ 14⁴ L. 15⁴ 20⁴ 21⁴ 22⁴

Progne subis L. H. 17' heard about 6 a.m.
flying over our boat.

[illegible]

Hirundo lunifrons 1¹⁰ 2²⁰ 3³⁰ 4⁸ 5⁶ 10⁷ 11 12 19⁷ nests in
Barn 20¹² 21⁶

Tachycineta brevir

Cotula riparia 13. B. G. L. H. 24 ^{Griffin} 10²

Piranga erythronus. 21 ^{1/2} ^{2 H} ^{most seed to} ^{stems form}

1909.
June

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1909.
June

Loake Umbagog.

Bonasa togata 4' 1/4" L. H. 10" L. H. 24" Grafton Hatch
in road. x one chick

Ardea virescens 5th

Falso pur. anatum 7' ^{6.5'} ^{leaves high over}
^{Peas of flower}

Urinator imber L. H. 9 1 seen in bath ⁵/₈ 10
collected by net

L. H. 10 1 flying high over Com. Thr.
meadow at 5 a.m.

L. H. 20 1 in bath in
Spartan Cove

L. H. 10 1 ad. seen with
2 ad. Great Horn
Owls at 8 a.m.

Loarus agulatus L.H. 11' ^{L.H.} flying over flooded meadows. 12' do L.H. 16' do L.H. 18' do L.H. 20' do L.H. 22' (3rd)

Titras canadensis (?) ^{Yuba Reg., 1000 ft.} One heard drumming!

Regiella senegalensis 2.4' in ad. plants on small sand dune at
22' Lake House low dry trees old dune

Rallus virginianus 22⁴ calling cutter in grass on river bank near Pecos R. and
at 9.30 P.M.

Cambridge, Mass.

1909.

June 30

A pair of Hairy Woodpeckers have been haunting
Pond Pond Swamp for the past month or so. I do not
know who first discovered them there. I first learned of
their presence about a week ago through a letter written
and signed by Maynard to his bird class. Next came a letter
from Mrs. Bridge to say that she had seen them. Then
J. S. Bradley wrote me that a Belmont farmer had told
him of their presence. This evening Samuel Henshaw
telephoned that his nephew, our common acquaintance,
wished me to know that he had found their nest.
It had four eggs at first. Two of the eggs ^{were} hatched on
June 29, the other two to-day. Nelson has made
a number of successful photographs of the nest, eggs
& young birds. One of the young died soon after leaving
the shell. This is all I know now.

Nesting of
Hairy
Woodpeckers in
Pond Pond
Swamp.

Concord, Mass.

1909.

July 19

Clear & cool with strong N. W. wind.

I have been much on the river these past few days. Now here I know is pure attraction, at least in summer. The marshes have not been flooded since April and there is the roughest possible growth of vegetation anywhere, not as yet attacked by the hay mowers nor broken down by wind or rain. The "blue-joint" (*Phalaris*) has attained its full height (almost that of a tall man in places) and is in blossom. The wild rice, too, is fully grown & very abundant, especially along the shallows reach which I call Brown Dam Rapid. It has fluted but the grain is not yet ripe although the blackbirds seem to be attacking it.

The expansion of the river in front of Ball's Hill is lined on both sides with a wide belt of pinked wood in fullest flower. The rose or pink-purple blossoms stand erect in solid ranks making a great show. Just outside these float the water lilies growing, in the foreground, a narrow band of snow white. They grow so near together in places as to almost touch one another or so it seems when they are viewed from a little distance. Along some of the stretches *Utricularia*, now in fullest flower, forms narrow belts of bright yellow. This, too, is the season when the bird life along this part of the river seems most abundant & interesting. There are Swallows in swarms and Red-wings by hundreds, skimming close over the water or rising with loud notes of warning from the beds of wild rice & reeds. The Red-wings are singing almost as freely & quite as joyously as in June. Never at any season have I heard so many Swamp Sparrows. On my way to Carle's bridge & back this afternoon they were seldom a full minute when I did not hear at least one or two. Song Sparrows & Maryland Yellow throats were also singing delightfully but in less numbers. I see one or two Robins and Green Herons flying about & dropping among the grass almost every time I look across from the cabin.

Cornwall, Mass.

1909.

July 19

At evening I hear the hoarse growl of night herons on some tree high in air over Balls Hill. This afternoon a Black Duck passed me, flying down river and this morning I saw a brown marsh hawk, apparently a young one. King birds are unusually numerous along the river, feeding on dead crickets low over the water. A Kingfisher flaps back & forth past the columns, rattling noisily. I see a muskrat hole or two at evening & one or two large snapping turtles bask. Mole crickets are not numerous but I hear their click, click once or twice at evening & morning. On the evening of the 17th a heron was singing just below the Capron. About a week before this I heard two thrush & also two short bills.

As I was paddling up river and nearing the landing at Balls Hill on the evening of the 17th a Woodcock skinned low over me crossing the river and apparently dropping into the marsh on the Ball's side. That same evening a Whippoorwill sang a few notes near the stone boat house.

Most of the swallows frequenting the marshes just now are House Swallows. On the night of the 17th, when it was nearly dark, a swarm of them were dashing to & fro about the bend just below Balls Hill when I saw them go to roost in 1886 or 1887. No doubt they are still roosting there in the same cluster of black willows for I saw several of them attempt to alight in there then on this last occasion (July 17, 1909) although they did not actually settle down on their feet but kept on after fluttering for a moment among the leaves. They fly about, now high now low & very rapidly, in a compact flock making a loud & excited thrashing, for some time, passing back & forth near Ball's Hill. This I note every evening & have done so before for years past but never since 1886 or 1887 have I actually seen them go to roost.

Barnard, Mass.

1909.

July 20

Clear & cool with light northerly winds.

Red-eyed Vireos appear to sing more freely at all hours at this season than at any other and for this reason they seem to be more numerous now than they were in May & early June. I hear them everywhere in the woods from morning to about sunset, even in places where the gophers' mounds have stripped the trees nearly or quite bare.

Red-eyed Vireos
singing freely

The Tanager, like the Red-eye, are now singing much more than they do earlier in the summer. There are at least three or four notes on my land, one at Ball's Hill, one at Davis Hill, one or two in the woods at the farm. I hear them at all hours but especially from sunrise to 8 or 9 a.m. and again at evening when they sing as late into the twilight as the Vireos and very much later than the Red-eyes which cease, as a rule, about sunset.

Tanager
singing.

At 6 P.M. there were about 30 Swallows ^(to 60) skimming down the river in front of Ball's Hill, finding & dipping down to flicker the water, when to drink or bathe, I cannot well tell. By 7 P.M. the number had increased to 50 or more. The birds now flew higher (40 or 50 ft. up) and moved more in unison but yet in rather scattered order, coming up and down the river for a distance or two to 300 yards in each direction, still finding a little but flying for the most part rather straight & calling a good deal. During the next half hour they ~~became~~ became more & more excited and erratic in their movements and their flights were performed at higher & still higher altitudes. At 7.45 they rose to very high above Ball's Hill that they looked scarcely larger than flies. They were now flying in a close flock almost as compact in form as that of Pigeons or Pin Siskins and in a great ellipse, perhaps half a mile long. A few minutes later they descended and began darting back & forth around & among the tops of the trees near the cabin calling incessantly. Shortly after this they disappeared, no doubt seeking their roost in the woods just below our camp. Most of them were Barn Swallows but I heard the calls of Tree, House & House Swallows, also.

Swimming Swallows.
of Swallows.

England.

One cannot be long in England without coming to realize that birds, especially of large and conspicuous kinds, are far more abundant and generally distributed there than in any of the older-settled parts of eastern North America. The truth of this statement must, indeed, be patent to the most casual observer who, in broad daylight, passes through the Irish Sea by steamer from Limerick to Liverpool and thence crosses England to London by rail. For during even so short and commonplace a journey he will be sure to see birds in numbers and variety that are likely to fill him with astonishment, provided he has never visited England before.

To all this my journal for the following two months (to which the present sheet, written at this close, is intended to serve as a brief introduction) will bear strong testimony especially in entries under dates of August 4, 9 & 6; September 11, 12, 13, 14; October 1, 6.

Reference to
journal
entries for
Aug 4 &
Oct 6

At Sea, North Atlantic

140

The commonest of the birds seen was the *Phalaropus lobatus*, a small, slender, long-necked bird, with long, thin legs, and a long, thin bill. It was seen in great numbers, flying over the water, and landing on the surface. It was also seen on the shore, where it was feeding on the mud. The *Phalaropus lobatus* is a common bird in the North Atlantic, and is often seen in large numbers. It is a very active bird, and is often seen flying over the water, and landing on the surface. It is also seen on the shore, where it is feeding on the mud.

The *Phalaropus lobatus* rarely flew in a line for long. They were often seen flying in a loose, irregular flock. They were also seen landing on the water, and feeding on the mud. The *Phalaropus lobatus* is a very active bird, and is often seen flying over the water, and landing on the surface. It is also seen on the shore, where it is feeding on the mud. The *Phalaropus lobatus* is a common bird in the North Atlantic, and is often seen in large numbers. It is a very active bird, and is often seen flying over the water, and landing on the surface. It is also seen on the shore, where it is feeding on the mud.

All the birds I saw were in the water, and were feeding on the mud. The *Phalaropus lobatus* is a very active bird, and is often seen flying over the water, and landing on the surface. It is also seen on the shore, where it is feeding on the mud. The *Phalaropus lobatus* is a common bird in the North Atlantic, and is often seen in large numbers. It is a very active bird, and is often seen flying over the water, and landing on the surface. It is also seen on the shore, where it is feeding on the mud. The *Phalaropus lobatus* is a common bird in the North Atlantic, and is often seen in large numbers. It is a very active bird, and is often seen flying over the water, and landing on the surface. It is also seen on the shore, where it is feeding on the mud.

At Sea, North Atlantic

1909.

June 19

(5)

and when we were out on the water, the birds were very tame and would come close to the ship. I saw a number of them, and they were very tame and would come close to the ship. I saw a number of them, and they were very tame and would come close to the ship.

* For the sake of the
rest and health, I took the children under the deck and
made them stay in the cabin. The children were very
tame and would come close to the ship. I saw a number of them, and they were very tame and would come close to the ship.

After this happened the children were under the
wing and the children were under the wing. I saw a number of them, and they were very tame and would come close to the ship.

Then I must refer to my journal of that day to show the
birds. They were very tame and would come close to the ship.

I called the attention of several of my
fellows passengers to this matter. One of them
suggested that we should completely enclose the
deck which is next to the cabin with a netting.

* On referring to my journal for 1891, I find that the birds
were very tame and would come close to the ship. I saw a number of them, and they were very tame and would come close to the ship.

Then I must refer to my journal of that day to show the
birds. They were very tame and would come close to the ship.

At Sea, North Atlantic

1909

August
(No 4)

Besides the large light-colored Petrels just mentioned I saw, this afternoon, three small dark-colored ones. Two of them, flying together close to our bows, looked like Wilson's Petrels. The other was evidently, decidedly smaller and its flight seemed to me lighter & more erratic. I looked at one a Flying Petrel.

About 5 o'clock I was standing on the deck in front of the bridge when three gull-like birds came directly over me at a height of not more than 80 ft. Indeed I could catch from that one or two of them as they sailed in circles on six wings, looking down at us. They appeared smaller larger than Wilson's Terns and not unlike them in general shape & proportions but their tails were rounded or perhaps combed at the end and in one bird the central pair of feathers projected about 2 inches beyond the others. This bird was wholly of a dark sooty color looking in some lights as black as a male Purple Martin. The other two were plain brown (hair brown I should say) above and on the sides of the breast. Their throats and abdomens with a narrow central space between the breast, were very light brown or perhaps brownish white. I had a splendid view of them in a good light at this time. Some afterwards they passed on over us and drifted back over the walls of our ship where they were joined by four other brown-backed, light-bellied birds, evidently of the same species. I have no doubt whatever that they were Parasitic Jaegers*, a species I am glad to have seen. ^(legally in life) They were admirably proportioned, even cut, birds, swifter looking than I had expected, exquisitely easy & graceful of flight, moving, indeed, with all the buoyancy & absence of effort of the Bonaparte Gull, one of the best flyers

The length and shape of the central tail feathers in the sooty-colored bird was incident, conclusive proof as to its identity & further checked the other birds were one of the same species.

1909

August
(no 3)

of its wings. In some respects, however, their flight was
different from that of the gulls. They did not
perform the same kind of evolutions, and did not move about in the same way. They were more
direct, and more purposeful in their flight. They were also more
vigilant, and more alert than the gulls. They were also more
gregarious, and more sociable than the gulls.

and appeared on a high level of
sight. The set of their wings reminded me of that of
a Swallow's and their flight, on the whole, was I
think, more Swallow-like than that of any Gull.
I have seen them before. I was not a little surprised
to find them on this wide stretch of ocean where
the nearest land, the coast of Ireland, is at least
a thousand miles away.

" 2

At 3.30 P.M. I saw nine more Parasitic Jaegers. At least
one of them was wholly dark-colored. Of the coloring of the
others I could not make sure for they were then or four
hundred yards off and against blinding sunlight. He
lost them in sight for five or six minutes. During most
of this time they kept about of our ship although
they seemed to be flying over the down drift, chiefly
in wide circles yet not soaring for their wings were
in almost constant motion. They maintained all the
while an almost perfectly uniform elevation of
about 100 feet. Although unquestionably of the down drift
as the birds seen yesterday, their flight was different
and less admirable I thought. As I have said they
moved their wings almost incessantly in long, deep,
looming sweeps. Altogether they behaved more like ordinary
Gulls flying in company in circles, at a moderate elevation.

Boston to New York

1909

July 27

in

August

"

Birds noted during a voyage from Boston
to Concord in the vessel "The Fish".

Contopus richardsoni July 28th

Geothlypis trichas July 28th 29th 30th August 1st

Poocatharus pulchellus August 1st

Puffinus pacificus July 29th

Puffinus — ? August 1st 5000 feet 962 - 1000 feet

Stercorarius parasiticus August 1st 2nd

Puffinus anglicus ? August 2nd on water

1909.

Aug. 3

At Sea, 100 miles distant.

From 6.30 a.m. to 3.45 p.m. on 18.8.1909.

Weather, wind & sea - mostly fair, but some drizzle, rain & fog, but not much rain actually seen from ship.

About 10.30 a.m. the Fulmars appeared, flying in small numbers, but much in the manner of Gulls, coming up close under the ship, dipping, for a minute or two to pick up and swallow some morsel, ^{usually} picking and gliding, with beating wings to catch up again, occasionally showing off in one or two undulating, a half circle, over the water, but no alarm being caused by the ship, they were as much at home as the Gulls. They looked almost as white as Kittiwakes and most of the same size. It is difficult to say at first, when taken for that. There is one or two which appear to have a light blue wing, but the colour of all the large Petrels with which I am so generally, but because they are so small, and are not perfectly lost on examination (it is not so with the Kittiwakes) when the Kittiwakes are taken and with a mixture of white, brown, and black, and the same is true of the Kittiwakes when seen at a distance. As compared with that of the large, brown-backed Petrels seen in some numbers yesterday & the day before, the flight of these Fulmars was much swifter, firmer, more graceful, giving one the impression of far greater momentum and of more decision of purpose.

The Fulmars left us about noon. In mid-afternoon a ship was replaced by two Kittiwakes one a young bird with black on wings & tail. There was with us some two hours. Just before sunset a Gull, probably a Herring Gull, was seen and was slightly. Later than I saw a big bird, perhaps a Fulmar, or more, soaring in circles against the sky.

$$1.2 \times 10^{-4}$$
[illegible]

Frank Lee

1897

August

1898

My dear Mr. Lee, I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you.

I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you.

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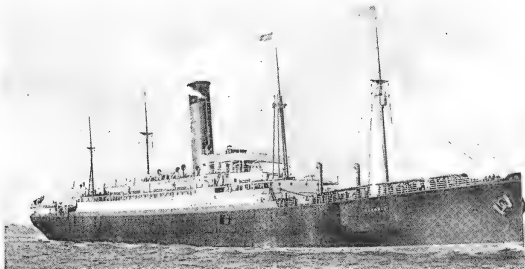
I am thinking of the beauty of the world. Such as the blue sky, the green grass, the red flowers, the white clouds, the blue sea, the white sand, the green trees, the red fruit, the white snow, the blue ice, the green leaves, the red berries, the white flowers, the blue sky, the green grass, the red flowers, the white clouds, the blue sea, the white sand, the green trees, the red fruit, the white snow, the blue ice, the green leaves, the red berries, the white flowers.

discussion is simple.

1909

Aug. 4

(no 4)



THE CUNARD LINE R.M.S. "IVERNIA" AND "SAXONIA."

ABSTRACT OF LOG OF THE CUNARD ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP "IVERNIA."

Captain H. M. BENISON (Lieut. R.N.R.)

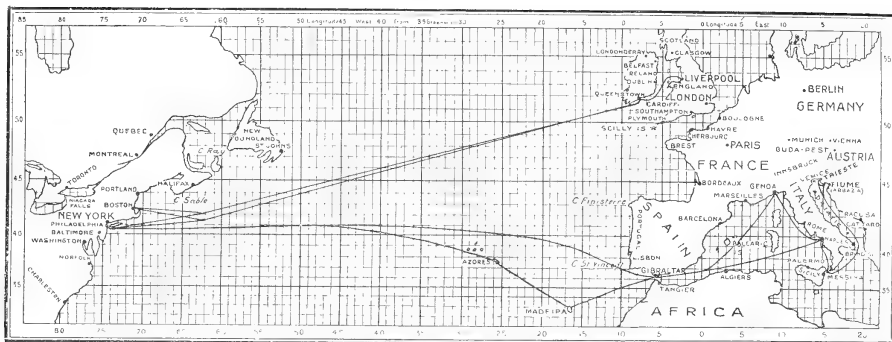
FROM BOSTON TO LIVERPOOL

Date, 1909.			Knots.	Latitude.	Longitude,	Winds.
Tuesday,	July	27				6.27 p.m. Boston Lightship abeam,
Wednesday,	"	28	259	42°00 N	64°56 W	S.W.
Thursday,	"	29	366	41°33 N	56°47 W	S.W. to W.
Friday,	"	30	361	41°06 N	48°48 W	Southerly to S,W
Saturday,	"	31	372	43°36 N	41°30 W	S.W.
Sunday,	Aug.	1	380	46°38 N	33°37 W	S.W.
Monday,	"	2	386	49°05 N	24°44 W	S.W.
Tuesday,	"	3	377	50°45 N	15°18 W	S.W.
Wednesday,	"	4	218	To Fastnet	Rock	6.51 a.m. Daunt's Rock abeam
			56	To Daunt's	Rock	
Boston L'ship to			2775	To L'pool	Bar L'ship	Average Speed 15'82.
Daunt's Rk. L'ship						
			228			
Boston L'ship to			3003			
Liverpool Bar L'ship						

PASSAGE.—Boston Lightship to Daunt's Rock.—7 Days, 7 Hours, 24 Mins.

ALL PASSENGER STEAMERS OF THE CUNARD LINE ARE FITTED WITH MARCONI'S
SYSTEM OF WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

TRACK CHART OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.

[illegible]

Oxford, England.

1909

Aug. 7

Still another calm, cloudless, warm day

In the afternoon we went by the car to Henley,
Oxford and saw some of country roads bordered on either
sides by low hedges beyond which were grassy fields
level for the most part and of surprising green. The heavy-
matted wheat & barley fields were ready ready for the harvest
& of a pale creamy brown or straw color, the oats are nearly
matured & with some, the grass fields are in more "come to"
maturity even with some grass. English Sparrows in great
numbers were flying about & seen on the grass fields. On
the hedgerows & some hedges we saw some with black, grey
& white & a few blackbirds. One blackbird was seen flying
amongst the trees, its white underparts visible in the air. In the
trees, we saw a flock of blackbirds amongst the trees
flying about in the air, some of them were seen
at one time flying in the air, some were seen
sitting on the trees. Some of the blackbirds were seen
on the top of an old, dilapidated cottage chimney, some
into it was a number and some were seen flying
about the chimney & some of them were seen
on the roof of the chimney. Some of the blackbirds were seen
on the top of the chimney, others on the roof of the chimney.
We heard Robins singing & Chicks of several kinds calling.
No Hawks of any kind & no Jays or Magpies were evident
but I saw a Magpie in a field where I was in the
train coming from Henley on the 5th. No flocks were
evident & mostly primitive birds of woods & fields. The
trees were full of old with dense undergrowth beneath them.

England

Oxford to Henley.

1909.
Aug. 9.

Cloudless with light southerly winds. Cool at morning and evening, warm through middle of day. I did not see a thermometer but was told that the maximum temperature was about 82°. The English call it "a very hot day"; to me it seemed only agreeably warm - like our best August or early September weather. From morning to night there was not the slightest cloud in the sky nor enough haze to dim objects less than six or eight miles distant.

Down the
Thames
by steam

Spent the entire day on the Thames leaving Oxford at 9.30 A.M. and reaching Henley at 7.30 P.M. Although a good-sized river boat, permitted by law to carry 230 passengers, our steamer, the "Henley", consumes only 500 pounds of coal during this run of 47 miles. She can make 12 miles per hour but rarely does more than 7 or 8, while her average rate of speed is only about 6. As her engines are almost perfectly noiseless and as she seldom sounds her whistle she disturbs even the quietest readers of the river and thus being bird life scarce more than do the barges, pinks & canoes. From her decks one may see much of England and of its fauna and flora to exceptionally good advantage, especially when the weather is as fine as it was to-day.

The river is everywhere interesting and attractive while some of its reaches are ^{rather straight} ~~surprisingly~~ wild & picturesque. For the most part it flows through open farming country with perfectly level low-lying but well drained fields of grass, grain and pastures bordering it on either hand. But there are some sharp bends and in several places high, wooded hills slope steeply down to the water's edge. The finest as well as most extensive tract of woodland is on Earl Harewood's estate. There are essentially primitive woods or rather forests with immensities of the largest trees and abundant, untamed undergrowth.

England.

The Thames.

1909.

Aug. 9
(No. 2)

Throughout its course the river is fringed nearly everywhere Vegetation with tall dark green flags and bull rushes intermingled with a feathery-foliaged, cane-like plant which I take to be the same as that (*Phragmites*?) which grows along the Alster there.

Where the banks are firm and well defined this belt of semi-aquatic vegetation is confined to the water's edge and is only a yard or less in breadth. It widens out where they are low & mossy and about the lagoons, of which there are many extending well back from the river, often covers an acre or more in extent.

In very many places along the higher banks are thickets of hawthorn and sometimes these and dotted over the rich meadow lands, especially near villages, magnificent clumps. Where the forest comes to the river tall oaks, ashes, beeches and alders (almost if not even as tall & spreading and heavy-topped as the largest oaks) extend their long drooping branches far out & low down over the water.

Everywhere the foliage is rich & perfect with no trace of withering by insects and rarely a yellow or faded leaf. In color it is a decidedly deeper & more sombre green than that of our best English woods. An exception to this rule is afforded by the willows, everywhere abundant along the river and in places bordering it for half a mile or more on one or both banks. They are mostly white willows, I think, and, like ours, their foliage is of a rather yellowish green. The walls of foliage afforded by the "hanging" woods along the river are denser, more luxuriant and in every way finer than any I have ever seen in America but there are fewer kinds of trees than with us.

The wild flowers along the river were abundant & very attractive. Most beautiful of all & very common & widespread was the Purple Crosswort. The Willow Herb with pale purple & yellow-lilac flowers was equally common. Yarrow (the pink form common), Tansy, Buttercup, Hawkweed, Meadow Sweet & White wood Sanicle were everywhere. No Golden Rod except in gardens. Thistles.

1909
Aug. 9
(No 3)

England
The Thames

The bird life along the river was away when bewilderingly Bird life abundant, varied and interesting. Well might it tempt an American ornithologist to forsake his own country and to come here to spend the remainder of his days where so many fine and attractive birds can be seen in such numbers and subjected to such advantages.

First in interest were the Moor Hens, almost constantly in sight, especially on morning & evening when they forsake their leafy covets to swim about well out from shore as they sample their food among the aquatic vegetation. I never have seen as many as 500 or 600 in all. Along some of the reaches we passed them every forty or fifty yards. The adult birds look & act exactly like Florida Gallinules. They were often accompanied by young of all sizes from tiny, black chicks only a day or two old to full grown birds in autumn plumage. Oddly enough I saw no more than two young with any one parent or pair of parents.

Moor Hens

Of Dabchicks I saw only four in all, one pair of adults & one adult with a fully grown young.

Dabchicks

I saw four Kingfishers & a fifth was seen by one Captain. Kingfishers All were shy but I had a good view of them, seeing their exquisite blue backs in clear sunlight. One left his perch in a leafy willow and flying downward at an incline of about 30° struck the water near the opposite shore with great force bringing himself for an instant but emerging without his fish. All four birds kept well beyond gun range of the boat & doubled back over the meadows to avoid us as we approached. They flew with amazing swiftness, vibrating their wings most rapidly. Their flight reminded me of that of a Homingbird but it was wholly free from intention. The Captain says they are increasing along the river, after a period of exodus recently when they were almost wholly absent & he saw no more than a pair of them.

England.

St. James.

1909.

Aug 9
(No 4)

The Kingfisher was next to me and so was another bird, the Common Sandpiper. The latter started from the edge of the water and crested low over an open pasture before returning to the river again. This bird, the only one I saw, looked very like our Spotted Sandpiper and flew in precisely the same manner with rapid, quivering wing beats.

About sunset a ♀ Mallard passed us flying low & following the course of the stream. This was the only Duck I noted.

The only Hawks observed were a pair of Kestrels, skimming over a meadow, one following the other closely.

Herons are often seen by the Gophers but none came under his or my notice to-day.

Wood Pigeons and Stock Doves were almost constantly in sight flying rapidly from place to place or dropping onto the grain fields. Lesser Doves appeared less often & usually in pairs. Six or seven Green Pheasants took from the ground in a pasture & ran for the nearest woods, one following another, like a straggling party of F. rollers.

Swallows were exceedingly numerous but so widely distributed that it was unusual to hear them over one of the fields or more than a score or so in sight at once. The Martins were less numerous and the Sand Martins comparatively few.

We saw small flocks of Larks in several places & one flock of fully 200 birds rose all at once from a pasture & re-assembled after flying in circles for a minute or two.

I saw three or four Wagtails all of the black & grey kind.

A few Red Wobblers were seen dodging about in the tall reeds & our song seemed very much of the song.

Hundreds of F. rollers of various kinds were seen or heard but I identified only the Green Bunting, the House Sparrow, the Chaffinch & the Green Finch.

English
San Marcos

1909
Aug. 9
(No 5)

In a dozen or more places along the river in forested family groups of Swains, most of them of the Black-throated and nearly all consisting of a pair of adult birds with from 2 to 5 immatures. They are all coming back of course and most of them belong to "The Crown" we were told. They are few to go when they visit, however, and their presence in the river adds greatly to its attractiveness.

Especially few were seen on the big oaks, scattered about on a wide grassy slope on San Marcos' estate. They looked healthy & vigorous as they flitted along pulling at the grass & down but this said they are not really doing well.

The insect life that came under my observation was disappointing. Besides the wasps & many wasps I saw only two large Diptera Flies and one fine smaller one; the latter, belonging to the *Agrionidae*, evidently, were all near together in a little hole among the reeds and two were in actual contact.

The only Butterflies seen were the common white Cabbage ones. There were as abundant in the clover fields as our little yellow field Butterflies are on our lawn.

There were no lovely bugs, skaters or water boatmen as far as I was able to notice. But myriads of minute gnats danced in the densest stream where the wind was not blowing hard enough to disperse them.

The only cold mammal seen was a Water Vole or Rat which swam in broad strokes during near the base of a bank much as a muskrat would have done.

I forgot to mention Rattles & Shrikes. They were both seen in similar numbers & in practically every large field.

Lyndhurst, New Forest, England.

1909.

Aug. 14-23

On reaching here on the evening of the 19th I found in Rudyard the smoking room of the Crown Hotel, and almost immediately Kipling entered into conversation with Rudyard Kipling, not then knowing who he was. In the course of the next few days I saw a good deal of him, talking with him, obliging, at least four or five hours. He is a short, rather slight yet compactly built and very active & vigorous, man whose face and figure remind me forcibly of those of the late Prof. James B. Greenough, my old friend & neighbor in Cambridge. At a little distance or in a poor light his face is exactly like that represented by his photographs and its general expression is repellent rather than attractive. But it lights up at once when he speaks and when he smiles, as he constantly does when speaking, it beams with friendliness, and good humor, and great intelligence. Rarely, indeed, have I ever seen in any human face a smile so irresistibly winning and so unmistakably indicative of sincerity of mind and honesty of intention. It is a thousand pities that he has to wear spectacles constantly and that they are of the "gig-lamp" type for the eyes that their reflecting surfaces conceal and distort at worst times, are, when one looks directly into them, in a good light, from a distance of only a foot or two, ~~so~~ really wonderful eyes, unlike any that I remember to have seen before. They are deep blue in color and very large, yet not protruding. By turns they flash and scintillate with ~~about~~ intelligence & high spirit or beam with humor or melt with deep sympathy, which not seldom they gaze intently into your eyes, with a wondering expression, curiously childlike. Thus do they vary constantly in expression with their owner's varying moods.

Lyndhurst, New York.

1909

Aug. 19. 23

(no 2)

In his intercourse with Mr. Highing was, from the very first, genial & friendly and, in the best sense of the word, more familiar. Indeed he ~~interacted~~ ^{interacted} me with such an entire absence of stiffness and reserve and on apparently such equal terms as to put me quite at my ease with him. Thus we chatted and joked and laughed and smoked our pipes together as if we had known each other for years. Once when I left my tobacco pouch in my room I filled my pipe from his pouch. On another occasion, when I was sitting down in the smoking room, he approached me singing some song, in a rather unmoderated voice, beating time to it with both arms, and calling "pigeon wings" with his feet. He seemed at all times conversing with men & with animal spirits.

We talked about all manner of things but mostly of birds and beasts. He knows something of them at first and very much on second, third and has showed & for ten years past carried, weight with the general principles of evolution, the colour of various etc.

But ~~first~~ foremost in his make up is his deep interest in, & sympathy with, humanity & ~~more~~ especially with the human claims of it. In certain ways he is a very practical man taking great interest in such matters as modern methods of heating, plumbing & drainage, in machinery, in farming especially. With the beautiful in nature (and, I suspect, in art also) he seems to concern himself very little. The gift of clear, vigorous, picturesque description so conspicuous in his writings is scarcely less so in his conversation. Indeed he talks almost as well as he writes yet is never in the least didactic.

He is a courteous, attention giving but somewhat impatient of all manner of details.

Lynchwood, New Forest.

1909.

Aug. 19-23

No 3

Nothing, I found, pleased him more than to have ^{me} suggest Rudyard
Kipling's theme which afforded him an opportunity to give Kipling
fair rein to his splendid imagination and love of humor.
Thus when I asked him abruptly what would ^{happen} ~~befall~~ him,
were I to enter the New Forest with a gun concealed
under my coat and to discharge it a few times over,
he outlined, in the most picturesque and business terms,
a rapid sketch of what would be likely to ~~happen~~ ^{befall} to befall
me, beginning, all the while, invariably. First a forest
guardian or warden would quickly appear and arrest me
with many apologies for doing so. Next I should be
brought before a local magistrate and by him remanded
to a higher court, where a Kings Counsel would listen
to the evidence very gravely and then point out to me
that I had offended against the laws of our Kingdom
and of the Forest on "several counts here among them".
Finally I should be admonished and discharged without
fine or other penalty for this first offence. "Everybody would
be most polite and many eyes would be expressed
for the inconvenience to which they had unavoidably been
brought to subject" me.

When I asked him why he selected the Black Shepherd
as Mowgli's bosom friend, in the Jungle Book, he replied
"because of his color, which appeals to the imagination" adding
"I know, of course, that the Black Shepherd has a friend
of a temper & is, indeed, a devil incarnate." He advised
me that small boys in India sometimes talk to the forest
and converse with wolves in their dens. One that he
knew of personally & I think actually saw, ran on all
fours "using his elbows in place of fore feet. When first
recovered he could walk only with his hands."

Lyndhurst, New Forest.

1909

Aug 19-23
(no 4)

Riedyard
Kipling

He told me of a brown cat, rather when only a few days old, just after its mother had been killed. He fed it at first from a nursing bottle. After that Mrs. Kipling gave it ~~milk~~ ^{meat} ~~broths~~ which it lapped from her hands, cutting gently through her skin with the rasp of its rough tongue. When he let it out in his garden (in South Africa) it chased butterflies, ~~staring~~ ^{staring} at them, not as a kitten would stalk, but with an upraised throat of the eyes far forward, impatiently, by a downward stroke of the left paw (this he illustrated with his hands). "Just so its father killed ~~notable~~ ^{notable} ~~often~~", he concluded.

When I asked him if the English Brown Fox was not a shrewd &狡猾 ~~best~~ ^{best} ~~fox~~ he said "it knows as much as an Oxford graduate ~~thinks~~ ^{thinks} he knows".

He was discussing his literary work when he said abruptly, with his charming smile, "all the fun and satisfaction to be got from ~~reading~~ ^{reading} books comes ~~from~~ ^{from} ~~the~~ ^{the} writing of them. After they are printed one never wishes to see or hear of them again".

He considers the Hare "a much more interesting animal than the Rabbit". The Hare is a gentleman, while the Rabbit is not. When the Rabbits on his own place ~~became~~ ^{became} ~~increased~~ ^{increased} as to become a nuisance he called on a notorious poacher in his neighborhood & suggested that he kill a lot of them. The man at first denied that he had any skill in that kind of business but finally asked abruptly "would it be wiser than you would have me do," Kipling replied "I don't care whether you win or poison them if only you will get rid of them". In the course of the following week most of them disappeared, "at no expense for the services of a professional game keeper".

Lyndhurst, New Forest.

1909

Aug 19.23

(No 5)

He asked me if Dr. William Jones was still investigating Rudyard Kipling's telepathy & similar things to which I answered "yes!" ^{Kipling}
"He makes a mistake in so doing" Kipling said. "Occultism, of whatever kind, should be left to Orientals. The white man had better let it alone. If he ever he dabbles in it he gets beyond his depth & into ~~trouble~~ trouble."

When I said "I hear that nervous troubles are becoming fashionable in England" he instantly replied, with a hearty laugh, "yes! but they will do us no great harm. I know what I know of my countrymen I should say they are in no great danger from any kind of that kind. Indeed a little of it may be rather good for them".

Mr. Kipling believes in a protection tariff for England. "Our farmers cannot hope to prosper until they get it".

He discussed Palgrave's book, the Man Eaters of Isora and I asked him if he did not consider it a good piece of literary work as well as an interesting story, to which he, ^{simply} ~~unhesitatingly~~ answered "yes!" He speaks in terms of strong praise of Hudson's "Ten Days in Patagonia" and with some interest of Sven Hedin's books on explorations in Central Asia.

He thinks that the abundance of birds, both large & small, in England is due chiefly to protection, direct & indirect. "The farmer boy, loafing about with a gun, whom one sees everywhere in Vermont, is ~~needed~~ to be found in England." Here there are innumerable small enclosures and gardens where a gun is ever fired by anyone. They are all bird sanctuaries."

Now that Kipling has left us I am surprised to find how uninteresting all the other men seem by comparison. Very I shall not soon, if ever, look upon his like again."

Synchhurst, New Forest.

1909.

Aug. 19-23

(No 6)

Owls

hooting.

About eleven o'clock on the night of the 22nd I was undressing in my room when two Owls began hooting in the garden on the rear of the Crown Hotel. I threw the window wide open and stood by it for nearly half an hour listening to them and shivering with cold, for the air was damp & chill. During this period they hooted three or four times a minute, one regularly answering the other. One was evidently very near at hand, probably within 30 or 40 yards, the other apparently at the far end of the garden - about 150 yards away. Their notes were similar if not identical (i.e. those of the one to those of the other) and in form & accent essentially the same as the first three or four notes of our Great Horned Owl's hoot; but their voices were unlike that of our Bubo and more nearly resembled that of our Bubo (asio), although much louder and more powerful as well as somewhat different in other respects.

At times they had a wailing, at others a hollow quavering, suggesting by times the sound of wind in rigging (or the cataphoric humming), and that of wind blowing down a chimney of a window night. Altogether a queer sound, indefinable sound, not closely comparable to that produced by any Owl I remember to have heard before yet not wholly dissimilar, as I have said, to the wailing of our Screech Owl.

I wish I knew just what the birds were. The garden, although two or more acres in extent & well supplied with trees, is in the heart of a populous village, yet only a few hundred yards distant from the forest. It might be haunted, I suppose, by either the Barn or the Common Owl & perhaps even by the Eagle Owl. I ~~note~~ wrote down on the spot, while actually listening to them, the following rendering of the notes just described.

Coo, Coo, hoo-hoo.

Coo, hoo-o-o

Coo, hoo-o

Hoo, o-o-o-o

In every utterance I heard the first note & the last were strongly accented.

Lynnhurst, New Forest.

1909.

Aug. 19.23
(No 7)

The garden just mentioned is also with Robins and Blackbirds. Garden Birds.
The Robins are in full song at morning & evening. Their notes are varied, bright & gleaming and I never tire of listening to them. The birds themselves are most tame & confidently permitting one to approach them within a few yards or even feet. Their call notes are sharp & melodic and almost exactly like those of our Cardinal Grosbeak. The Blackbirds are one of song but I hear them clanking something like Herring Thrushes and uttering a series of longling calls, almost exactly like those of our Robins, when they take wing. They have a habit of waving their tails about like our Cat-birds and also of slowly clanking & depressing the tail, like our Herring Thrush. They run about on the lawns like our American Robin but unlike him are much given to conversing themselves in dense thickets when approached. Indeed it is really difficult to get a good view of them and the same may be said, with equal truth, of most of our Southern British birds as I noticed one & over again in 1891.

House Sparrows swarm in this garden. When the guests are then held assembled for afternoon tea on the lawn the Sparrows crowd close about them uttering within a yard or two of the tables to be seen upon the small pieces of bread that are thrown to them. But in other parts of their grounds & everywhere else in England (where they seem to me this summer as common as about Boston & Cambridge) they are exceedingly shy. For the most part they are now frequenting the fields of ripe grain & I seldom see them in village streets.

On the evening of the 21st I saw a Big Bat flying rapidly to & fro over the garden, occasionally dropping suddenly. It looked as large as our *Alotaphus cinerea*. However I have seen only a very small kind in England.

Big Bat

England
The ...

1909.

Aug 19-23.

(no 8)

The New Tower is far wilder and more impressive than I had pictured it. Nowhere in America, save in Boston North Church and in the British River Gables, have I seen such noble trees.

The oaks and Beeches surpass in size and vigor any that we have in New England and attain our tens of thousands of years of the longest lives. They are crowded and tall in places, in others wide apart and spreading, with long barren branches. As a rule they have broad, down-shaped heads very unlike those of any of our New England trees and their foliage is wonderfully dense and perfect and of a deeper, darker green than that of most American trees. Beneath them the ground may be properly described as nearly sterile with dead leaves or is covered with dead undergrowth, chiefly of twisted holly, that it is difficult to make our way for any great length but leaves soon by means of some open place or other aid. The Cotton-wood is just as common as the former & indeed characteristic

summer woods of forest. There are many birches, ~~also~~,
decid with very kind of thorny and loaded by blossoms
winding branches. Throughout the forest an immense open
spaces varying in size from pretty little ^{grove} glades to haunts,
hundreds of acres in extent, covered with grass or with
juniper heath or two kinds, now in bloom. The forest trees
are chiefly oaks, beeches (heavily loaded with silver mast ^{acorns} just now)
and birches, with now and then an ash, a hornbeam (like
an Asperula) or a chestnut (with leaves & buds smaller
than those of our own). There are many wild apple trees, too,
widely scattered & division in very very to oaks. Of the
conifers there are the larch, Juniperus abundant & indigenous
no doubt, the Scotch Pine (forming extensive forests, all
planted, I suppose), the Austrian Pine (less common), the Norway
Spruce and the Larch (both comparatively scarce & evidently introduced).

England.
The New Forest.

1809

Aug. 14. 23

(No 9)

Some of the larger openings in the forest are elevated, rolling plains, mossy like in character and stretching almost as far as the eye could reach. They reminded me forcibly of parts of Newmarket & Copse and especially where there was shelter, wind disturbed fens and oaks scattered over them. Many of them are covered with finely green alternating with stretches of bracken or with heather. The bracken (exactly like our bracken) appears to thrive equally well in the open and under the shade of the trees. It covers immense areas in some parts of the forest and forms an favorite cover of the wild Fallow Deer.

There is apparently no "foddering" done to this forest. I saw no signs of the trimming of dead or "superfluous" branches and I was assured that the trees are seldom or never cut for any purpose. Some of them are rather thickly festooned with grey green Honeysuckle, similar-looking to ours. I saw only a very little mistletoe, perhaps because of the density of the foliage.

The general impression made on my mind by the New Forest was that it is more beautiful and imposing than any large tract of woodland that I have ever seen elsewhere. In respect to romantic interest & suggestiveness it is unquestionably superior to anything we have in America. One feels that it was in exactly such a forest that Robin Hood dwelt, for very much of it is obviously primitive and wholly unspoiled and unchanged. As I wandered through it I was constantly reminded of Scott's descriptions in "Ivanhoe" especially in the opening chapters. It needed only the presence of a knight or two in armor, and of knights, tending the huge, slate-colored swine that I saw rooting under the giant oaks & bushes, to complete the reality of Scott's masterly picture. Besides the swine there are now forest ponies and cattle in considerable numbers, roaming about everywhere, apparently semi-wild.

England

Logdhouse, Kent Forest.

1909.

Aug. 19-23

(No 10)

I was disappointed in the bird life I found in the forest, even after making allowance for the fact that it was an off season for birds. There were Robins singing everywhere and here and there a Wren but I heard little else and found only a very few birds of any kind, except an occasional Black or Hooded Pigeon and two or three Jays. I did meet with Crossbills, four or five of them feeding in the top of a tall pine. I was attracted to them by their high-pitched call notes exactly like those of our Tall Crossbill. They were all females or immatures, obviously much larger than our birds. I saw them flying over the long cones of the pine (*P. sylvestris*) although there were still green.

Birds of the forest.

But if bird life was somewhat inadequately represented in the depths of the forest there was more for observation about its outskirts. Whereas there were farms, grain fields and gardens I saw as many birds as anywhere else in England. Evidently they are fond of hunting cultivated lands, where food is abundant.

On the morning of the 22nd I heard in the garden of the Crown Hotel a song which in Kent England I should have presumed at once to be that of *Spiraea tristis*. A little later I heard the calls of young birds almost precisely like those of the young of our Goldfinch. Soon after this I spied one of the birds perched on a chimney top. It was only just out of the nest & still in first plumage but as the color & markings of the wings & tail were identical with those of the old world Goldfinch I was satisfied that it belonged to that species. I waited a long time in hopes that the western bird would come to feed it but this did not.

Goldfinches

England.

Nilton, Isle of Wight.

1909

Aug. 25

We are staying here on the Royal Sandhede Hotel, the prettiest little old inn I have yet seen in all England. Behind it is a garden full of Hawthorn and hawthorn trees, before it a lawn bordered by flower beds, beyond which are boats out on the British Channel. In the garden are Robins, Blackbirds, Wrens and Chaffinches. I wonder if any garden in England is without one of these! The Robins are still singing freely, the Wrens more sparingly but well.

Yesterday I saw a Golden-crowned Kinglet. It looked exactly like our bird and had the same way of moving about in the foliage of an evergreen, nervously working its wings, which its tee-tee-tee call was identical with that of our Regulus.

I am getting to love the Robin almost as fondly as if I had been born an Englishman (Kipling said to me the other day "no man or boy in all England would harm a Robin but the track would do us harm always to protect your American bird"). He is certainly a little dear, so charmingly tame & confiding and writes such a delightfully spiritfully song, doubly precious at this season when almost all other singing birds have ceased into silence. He chiefly affects Hawthorn & garden paths but occasionally alights for a moment on open lawns. In his manner of alighting to pick up an insect and then almost immediately flying up again into a ^{branch} tree, he reminds me of our Potamocheilus but unlike the Potamocheilus he spends most of his time concealed in dense Hawthorn.

Robin

Redbreast

England:

Nelson, Isle of Wight.

1909.

Aug. 25
(No 2)

Natterjack
Toad

The daughter of our landlady, Mrs. Green showed me a Toad this evening in its burrow in the Canon. I could not see it well for it was on the bottom of the hole which went straight down & was nearly half a mile in depth. She says it came out only at night (it was then nearly dark) and that another lived in another hole in the garden. She assures me that a few Grasshoppers may be found here in almost any field of moist grass. I have seen none but I heard what I took to be one in a small apple tree in the garden about ten o'clock to-night. It made a shrill, rasping sound - a single note, given very rapidly and kept up without cessation while I remained near the spot & doubtless through the night. This sound was not unlike that produced by one of our native moths here England Grasshoppers, belonging to the genus Cercopharis if I remember rightly. It ceased for a few minutes when I was standing directly under it and was on once resumed when I moved away. After hearing it I walked in the darkness through some of the Canon in our neighbourhood but no other unusual sounds greeted my ears there.

Grasshoppers

There was a very small Bat flying over the Canon in the evening twilight.

Bat.

The Toad shown me this evening was only the second one I have seen in England this summer. The first was in the park at Oxford and was very active & shy, hopping nimbly along the grass walk in the evening twilight & entering some bedding shelter before I could get near it.

Toad

There are at least two species of Bladder Bats common here which are colored very unlike any of our home England ones. One is small & has the entire abdomen deep brownish orange. The other is large with the abdomen broadly tipped with pure white.

Bladder
Bats.

Essex
Neton, Isle of Wight.

1909
Aug. 26

During a drive to God's Head Church and to Ventnor I saw numerous swarms of birds. One flock of House Sparrows, in bushes by the roadside near a grain field, was larger than any I have met with in America. They were in a perfect cloud, filling the air like a swarm of gnats.

Practically every large garden and house garden of this island had its Robin in full song.

Wood Pigeons were flying over the field and a dozen or more Stock Doves circling about a cliff with an equal number of Jackdaws. The flight - call of the Jackdaws is hee, hee, not unlike that of our Purple Martin.

Call note of
Jackdaws i.
Hestrels

We saw two Hestrels. One alighted on the ground, in a pasture, very near the road when I had a fair view of him. He looked and flew much like our Sparrow Hawk but appeared much larger of course.

I am surprised to find there are often hogweed, fetid with rain water, at the base of our house, is literally swarming with what I took to be mosquito larvae. There must be thousands of them, yet I have neither seen nor heard a mature mosquito in England this summer. They look exactly like our mosquitoes "wiggers" & I do not see how they can be anything else. If they really are those and if they are allowed to mature the people on this house have serious trouble in them for them.

Mosquitoes

Mr. Meeson, the Essex farmer, whom I met on the journey, told me that he could not remember ever seeing a mosquito in England yet he said that fever & chills is a rather common scourge of the people living in his neighborhood. It is difficult to remember all their facts & expressions.

Later. - This evening a mosquito came about me & I killed & examined it. It had green stripes on its back & a proboscis cleft into three parts. Mrs. Green admits that mosquitoes are sometimes rather numerous

England:

Niton, Isle of Wight.

1909
Aug. 26
(No 2)

and troublesome in Niton. They have bitten her frequently and even so severely that she has badly poisoned and confined to her room for a day or two. She has noticed the "wrigglers" in the water barrel but did not suspect they were mosquitoes. The water will be drawn off to-morrow morning (this was done).

About sunset this evening I heard a bird making a great variety of odd sounds, some of them rather loud but most of them uttered in an undertone. Some were metallic, other wheezy or asthmatic, still others liquid, like falling water or water flowing from a bottle, and others again very like a human whistle of three or four notes given with varying modulation. The whole performance reminded me somewhat of that of a Cow-bird singing alone over. I have also heard one Robin for previous evening like it. From the first I suspected that a Starling was the author of it and at length I saw him - in the top of an Australian pine. Among his other notes was one exactly like the alarm cry of a Barn Swallow, and another like a tone in the Robin's song. I suspect he is a good deal given to deliberate mimicry.

Song of the
Starling.

The night was cloudless & calm with bright moonlight. About 9.30 I walked all over the grounds about the house and through several of the neighbouring steady lanes listening for bird & insect sounds. At home I should have heard the hissing calls of many a migrating Butterfly & a perfect din of insect sounds, on such a night, but here the only sound of any kind that reached my ears was the low chirp of a single cricket in a hedge. The grasshopper in our garden was silent to-night. Probably some bird has found & eaten him.

Observation
of insect
& bird sounds
on night.
One cricket
only heard
to-night.

~~English~~
Hilton, Isle of Wight

1909
Aug. 26
(No 3)

Garden
birds.
This afternoon
Seymour

I am more and more strongly impressed with the habitual, systematic shyness of practically all the smaller British birds. The Robin appears to be almost if not quite the only exception to this rule. He is surprisingly friendly & confident but all the others seem to regard man with profound distrust and to avoid expressing themselves whenever he is near. This is quite as true of the birds which frequent gardens as of those found in woods and fields. - or even under the ivy-
In the garden here are very many birds - Robins, Wrens, Blackbirds, Chaffinches and House Sparrows being the most numerous. Whenever I walk through it I hear them all about me and catch glimpses of them flying from shelter to shelter as I advance or standing through lower branches, perhaps within a few feet of me. But not one, unless it be a Robin, ever descends or comes out into any open, exposed place where I am near at hand. Indeed it is almost impossible to get a fair view of any of them. Even the House Sparrows show observation and the Blackbird is one of the most mistrustful and accomplished skulkers of them all, quite as elusive, indeed, as the Wren. All these birds seek refuge in low shrubbery & thickets when thus disturbed, as does the Song Sparrow, also. The two-fingered sparrow such as the Redish Warblers, the Chaffinch, the Green Finch & various others are quite as difficult to observe for they conceal themselves in the dense foliage of the oaks, beeches, horse chestnuts & pines whenever I try to get a look at them through my glass. But when I am seated at my writing in the little greenhouse at the rear of the garden all these & other birds, unaware of my presence in their midst, come out quite fearlessly & run or hop about among the flowers and along the gravel paths just as we do when at home.

Oxford, England

1909.
Sept. 9.

Clear & cool with fresh N. E. winds.

Trip up the
Cherwell

11 A.M. I have rowed up the Cherwell about a mile above Jim's boat-house in one of his light Thames skiffs in which I am now sitting, under the shade of a spreading willow. The sun is shining brightly in a practically cloudless sky. There is but little breeze, in fact no more than an ordinary breeze at home. The easterly wind is refreshingly cool, yet not in the least chilly. It is said to bring the best weather they ever have in England. To-day, certainly, would be considered a fine one anywhere.

The river is here considerably wider (fully 80 feet across I should say) than it is below the boat house and is much less shaded by trees. There are spreading willows along the banks in many places but no other arches of foliage, completely opening the horizon, as on the Ribbles & below. Most of the willows appear to be White Willows but I see a few broad, spreading ones which look not unlike our Black Willows but of course foliage. Save for the willows and an occasional Hawthorn there are few trees on the river's edge but straight lines of tall (80-90 ft.) alms extend back across the level intervals dividing it into meadow-like fields flooded only twice or three feet above the river yet perfectly hard & dry at this season (they are sometimes flooded I am told) and covered with the most luxuriant growth of English grasses on which horses, cattle & sheep are nearly everywhere feeding. For most of them are pasture lands apparently although some may have been mown earlier in the year. They are nearly everywhere tinged with gold just now by the innumerable blossoms of the fall dandelion (Hawkbit), which is above the best grass. I can see other flowers except a little Queen Anne's lace and pink clover. The river banks are nearly everywhere firm & well defined yet for the most part fringed with a narrow belt of semi-aquatic vegetation, tall &

Oxford.

1909

Sept. 9.

(No 2)

rank, growing freely in the shallow ~~town~~, partly on an ~~bank~~ of the Cherwell. This is composed chiefly of flags, similar in appearance to our Sweet flag and 2 to 4 feet in height, and of the attractive Italian Herb still covered with its coral red flowers which, at a distance, look more unlike than English ones. There is also Purple ~~Swallowtail~~, ~~very~~ many out of flower, and a tall, cross dock which I cannot distinguish from our ordinary garden weed of that name. There are together the most conspicuous & common plants. Among them are others, of course, such as thistles and nettles, into which I can give no names. I am struck by the apparent total absence of ferns of every kind; not one have I seen along this river.

The water in the river is fairly clear and, as one looks down into it, whether in sunlight or shadow, of a decided, if light, greenish tint. I see the bottom distinctly enough when it is then a few feet in depth. It is fairly alive with fishes of various kinds, both large & small, and everywhere abundantly infested, but never crowded, with aquatic vegetation. There are Cow bits (but no white water bits) a species of Potamogeton with large leaves, a broad leaved el grass (?), a rank plant with fern like foliage (always completely submerged). Perhaps of all to my fancy is a little floating Duck weed very bright green in color and not in the least like any one species, which is otherwise common.

There are many Dragon Flies along this river, the only place I have ever found them common in England. All appear to be of one same kind, a large rusty-brown species strong of flight and occasionally seen in fields at a distance from water and even in flower gardens in the heart of Oxford. Of these there are always one or two & sometimes as many as five or six, in sight from the spot where I am now writing. I see no Agrionidae here at all. I sat for hours along the Thames a month ago.

1909.

Sept. 9

(No 3)

Oxford

Kingfisher

When I ran my boat in under the spreading willows I disturbed a Kingfisher which flew from another tree of the same kind, about thirty yards off, and turned in over the meadow. It was back again only a few minutes later, alighting in the same tree, about 6 feet above the water, in dense foliage. Here it remained concealed for some time but at length I saw it fly out and down towards the water which it struck in full daylight, near the middle of the river, burying itself for an instant and then at once rearing to its perch. Whether it got a fish or not I could not see. The downward incline of its flight was very gentle yet it moved with exceeding swiftness, vibrating its wings incessantly. In every respect it behaved exactly like the Kingfisher I saw on the Thames early in August, and lay under our own bird when engaged in fishing. I did not catch sight of it again but about a week later down the river, on my return to the boat house & when very near it, I saw another which first flitted across a narrow, willow-bordered reach and then doubled back past me over the open meadow, skimming very low & indeed only just above the tops of the grasses, in broad daylight; its blue back showing very distinctly. From what I have seen of it I should say that this beautiful little species is one of the very shyest of all British birds despite the fact that its frequentations were like the Curlew when boats are incessantly passing up and down. It avoids them by doubling back past them over the land, as I have described, and by seeking itself in dense foliage when they are not very near at hand.

I saw comparatively few birds this afternoon & heard otherwise. One flock of Jacksnipe, containing about 50 individuals, passed high overhead & single ones were frequently in sight as was Hardy Plover, etc. From time to time I heard the flight call of Green Finches & saw those of them birds with deeply undulating flight which I

Delayed.

1909.
Sept. 9
(no 4)

took to be Goldfinches. Robins were the only birds in full song. I heard them everywhere where there were clusters of trees. Swallows & Martins were fair numbers were circling & skimming over the open pasture lands. I have seen no Swifts since the day I observed them there early in August.

For insect sounds I listened long & carefully in many places along the river, but everywhere in vain. If there were crickets or grasshoppers concealed among the grass in these meadow fields and pastures they were utterly silent. Cottages Butterflies were common enough but I saw only one other species, a smallish orange-brown one & that represented by but a single specimen. Buckly Bugs, similar to one I saw in the garden, I thought, were present in great abundance in the river where they kept well in shade, in rafts containing a hundred or more individuals each, as one was accustomed to do when there is a high, cool wind blowing.

Observation of
insect sounds

Many of the stretches of the Channel which I traversed this day were not unlike, in general character & appearance, those of our Concord River lying between North Bridge & Dollen's Hill. Indeed I was constantly reminded of the latter and of their bordering meadows during my excursion up this pretty little English stream. But below the boat-house where, for hundreds of yards, the trees arch completely over it, it is utterly unlike the Concord and more attractive than any I have ever known in England known to me except my favorite the Cambridge, at Boston University.

During a previous boat trip (on September 2) up these same reaches of the Channel I had a close view of a Water Rat. It appeared within a few yards of our boat swimming in clear water, towards shore, towing a stalk of flag 3 feet long, holding one end in its mouth. On reaching shore it entered the mouth of a tile drain into which it tried ineffectively to drag the flag finally leaving it behind at the entrance. It seemed & looked exactly like a small Muskrat. I am told by watermen here that these animals are very numerous, that they are chiefly nocturnal & that they clear like our Muskrats.

London to London (Scotland)

1909.

Sept 11

Forenoon cloudy & misty; afternoon sunny.

Left London at 10.5 a.m. and reached London at 7 P.M.
travelling by North British Railway which crosses England diagonally
and enters Scotland a little beyond the city of Carlisle. Most of the
English country which this road traverses is very uniform in
character, so much so, in fact, that after one becomes accustomed to
it it ceases to be especially interesting although it is everywhere
more pleasing and attractive. Practically all of it is a trimly fenced
and under cultivation, open fields devoted to grass, grain or potatoes
and separated from one another by hedges, stretching in every direction
as far as the eye can reach. In places there are fens, if any, but
except about the widely scattered towns; in others fine old oaks
and elms are dotted rather plentifully over the pastures and they
in long perfectly straight lines along the hedge-rows, giving the country
a park-like appearance near at hand and on a distance that of a
scattered forest. The fields are nearly all rectangular in shape. They
vary in extent from two or three to fifty or more acres. The grass
is surprisingly rich and dense and everywhere of the most uniform
green there being scarcely as sandy or gravelly patches where it
is thin & brown as in so many of our heavy England fields.
The grain fields for instance in number & excellence anything we have
in America east of the Alleghenies & New York State. More or less of
them are constantly in light & the grain (chiefly wheat & oats) seems
to be heavy-headed & of fine quality. Most of it has never been
reaped & is standing in sheaves in the fields. The fields, as a
rule, are undulating & nearly perfectly level but there are some high,
or, at least, abrupt, hills. We passed only a very few woods of any
extent but there were thickets along some of the streams & many
scattered groves & copses in water courses. The country is almost
wholly devoid of ponds & there are comparatively few boulders

London to Larchmont (Scotland)

1909.
Sept 11
(No 2)

The appearance of the population in the central, rural districts of England inspired me greatly. The houses are few and far between and there were almost no men at work in the fields. But nearly all the pasture lands were alive with horses, cattle & sheep, the number of animals which a given acre can support being evidently much greater than with us. Few of the pastures were close-cropped & in most of them the grass was lush & dense & the feeding beasts literally "up to their eyes" in it. There was fewer a field which was not well supplied with birds chiefly Rooks, Starlings, Thrushes & Blackbirds under him & then a flock of 50 or more hawks. Some of them flew & scattered over the town threatened by them. The grain fields Sparrows ran in clouds and Road Runners and Jack Doves in smaller numbers.

Occasionally we passed a warren alive with Rabbits and once I saw a big Hare crouched in short stubble.

Near the English Lakes, which we passed within a few miles although none of them could be seen from the train, the country became mountainous and beyond Carlisle we came to still higher mountains rising on both sides of the narrow valley of small swift-flowing rivers up which the carolled ran. None of these elevations were wooded but most of them were abundantly supplied with blowing heath on which tinged with delicate purples were acres on their steeply sloping grassy sides. Some were rounded, others long, narrow-crested ridges. After crossing the border into Scotland and thence on the way to Larchmont on some Rooks, Starlings & hawks in simply another number. In fact every grassy field was literally alive with them & with them in many places were Black headed or New Gulls. The number of hawks in any suitable field (they appeared the proper chiefly) ranged from 10 or 12 to 50 or 75. In all I must have seen at least 2000 of these birds in the course of a couple of hours.

Dunrobin House, Dunrobin, Scotland

1909

Sept. 12-13

The first of these days was rainy, the second clear. Harvie-
Brown
I spent these both with J. H. Harvie-Brown at Dunrobin House. Pines.
The driveway leading to the house from the postern lodge on the public road is fully one quarter of a mile in length, shaded by a double line of fine old trees & bordered by dense thickets of the finest laurels & yew-trees I have ever seen. The house is partly surrounded by shrubbery but is flanked on a broad grass field that slopes down towards the river and has at its rear an open pasture, perfectly level and perhaps six or seven acres in extent beyond which the land rises in a steep and heavily wooded slope. In two other directions, near at hand, lie knolls covered with groves of large trees. Taken as a whole the place is one of exceptional beauty & interest combining, as it does, great natural attractions and features which with very much that has obviously been due to wild and tasteful treatment at the hands of the landscape gardener. It is essentially like a well-ordered English estate (in most respects) yet far more pleasing to my mind than any gentleman's place I have ever seen in England for the reason that it is not wholly man-made & largely artificial. The wooded slopes I have mentioned look much like one of our covered hillsides and the view northward over the sloping field is bounded in the distance by lofty mountains. The landscape gardening, in short, has been chiefly restricted to the driveway and to the grounds immediately adjacent to the house which is of simple architecture & built of a greyish stone. There is a wealth of shrubbery of great beauty & variety but only a few flowers. The large trees are chiefly oaks, English elms and beeches. Most of the American trees I first saw in 1891 are living & have now made a fair growth but none are really flourishing.

Dunipace House, Berber, Scotland.

1909.

Sept 12-13

(No 2)

The entire place swarmed with birds of various kinds. At sunrise each morning I heard Robins singing in every direction, sometimes two or three at once. Flocks of several kinds were incessantly flying to & fro and calling among themselves, Thrushes and Blackbirds took advantage of every opportunity when there was no one above to watch them and a belt way on to the lawns which were dotted with them at times but if I so much as showed myself on the front door-step they all retreated precipitately with the nearest caveat as is their habit everywhere in this country. I had a good chance to watch them from my chamber windows. The Blackbird differs in behavior from our Robin more than I had thought. It is true that it feeds on lawns in much the same general way but when thus engaged it carries its tail higher and its motions are slower and less graceful. It seems to hop rather than run and at each advance covers only a yard or so at the most and often only a couple of feet. However it listens for its companions both head bent down & turned and afterwards extracts them from the ground, precisely in the manner of our bird. When not engaged in feeding it keeps well concealed among the densest foliage (usually low down in a thicket). I have yet to see more than two Blackbirds close together & House-Brown assumes the very same appearance in flocks at any season. On the whole their habits and behavior seem to me most nearly like those of our Brown Thrasher among American birds. The Song Sparrow looks and acts at times very like our Robin when one cannot see its throat breast. Its long quick easy run on the ground is similar, its flight much the same and it is exceedingly gregarious in autumn & winter.

Derogian House, Leabur, Scotland.

1909

Sept 2-13

1909

The level field at the rear of Harris-Brown's house was frequented at all ~~times~~ of our day by herds of interesting birds which we watched all our ease from the windows of his dining room, or on the lawn and meadow one finger. At morning and evening the Pheasants circled it by dozens (I counted 52 in flight at once) from the nearest covers and the Potters were so numerous and so widely dispersed over it that there was scarce a square yard of turf where they could not be seen snatching the barley or pecking peckily with our attention. At every hour of the day there came down to Rocks, Starlings and Larks in varying numbers and among them a few Black-headed Gulls. The Larks were Scotland's own everywhere. They acted precisely like the English Plain Starling and still for a few moments and then taking a long, smooth, robin-like run at the end of which they would frequently bend forward & down to pick up some morsel of food. Harris-Brown says they feed largely on slugs (i.e. the larvae of snails) in this field and that the Gulls are there to rob them of their ~~favorite~~ favorite kind of food but I did not see it done. At times there were probably not less than 200 Rocks, as many Starlings and a score or more of Larks on the ground in this field. The representations of all these species came and went, as a rule, singly or in small flocks & there was rarely a moment when they were not circling over the opening as they prepared to alight or to remove to some more distant place. Altogether it was a scene of pastoral activity and interest which I watched carefully whenever I had the opportunity - which was more of my time

Bird Life
in Harris-
Brown's field

Leamington to Oxford.

1909

Sept 14

Morning sunny; afternoon cloudy.

The sun was shining through silvery mist as I said good bye to Horner-Brown on the front steps of his house and started in drive to the station. Flocks were flying in every direction, Rocks and Starlings and Larks, among them was one or two towards the bird field. Glancing down the driveway between our laurel thickets I counted no less than 28 Pheasants scattered along a stretch about one hundred yards in length. It was something to remember always - that last glimpse of Dunham House & its immediate surroundings.

From the train, as it sped swiftly southward, I saw between Leamington & the Border even more birds than I had seen when traversing this region in the opposite direction on the 11th. The number of Larks was fully doubled and that of Gulls increased many fold. In some of the fields, tame white Geese, with white Gulls of several sizes, Black Rocks and Starlings and black & white Larks were mingled together thickly over a space of several acres among grazing cattle or sheep. I saw Pheasants in a few places and very many Robins besides a single Hawk.

On the 11th I caught sight of a Kestrel but no reptilian bird of any kind was noted to-day.

The Rocks & Starlings were observed everywhere even in flight yards close to railway stations in the towns where, as Horner-Brown assures me, they feed largely on waste grain which they have learned to extract from the metal boxes in which it is kept ready for use, by raising the hinged lids with their bills.

After re-entering England I saw nothing especially interesting.

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Sept. 14

(No 2)

From what I have seen in Great Britain this year, especially during the trip just made into Scotland, I think it safe to say that throughout England and the near borders of Scotland the number of small birds present during summer within any given area not directly on the seawest coast must be at least twice and perhaps three or four as it even is at the same season, in areas of corresponding size and character, in New England. Many birds of the sort of Starlings and Crows are certainly ^{at least} one-hundred fold more numerous. Of Robins there must be fully five hundred to every Acre we have in Massachusetts in summer and of Starlings fully two hundred to every Blackbird & Meadow Lark we have.

The relatively greater abundance (in Great Britain as compared with New England) of birds present for food and sport and especially that of sportsmen is probably quite as marked in the case of Pheasants and Partridges ^{as compared with our Ruffed Grouse & Quail} and perhaps still more so in the case of Lapwings, or compared with those of any one species of our birds here. These are the facts as I understand them. How can they be explained?

After having given the matter long & careful thought, based on my personal observations of conditions here and on ~~my own~~ ^{the long talks I had} evidence & opinion obtained from Horner-Brown during the long talks with him these past few days, I am now convinced that ^{the} birds - of food and indeed nearly universal abundance of bird life of various kinds in Great Britain and especially ^{that} of Crows, Cuckoos & even our Goshawks birds that for food as well as sport, is due chiefly

(1) to careful, intelligent, ceaseless protection against excessive persecution on the part of gunners; (2) to equally systematic if not invariably wholly wise protection against natural enemies known here as "vermin"; (3) to

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Sept 14
(No 3)

the universally richer food supply (especially in winter) in England and Southern Scotland as compared with that in most parts of eastern North America (at least along the ~~coastal~~ belt); (4) to the more equable climate of Great Britain where the extremes of heat & cold are less than winter as well as where the snow fall in winter is ordinarily much less. I do not believe that migration, or the lack of it with certain species, has much of anything to do with the results in the way that Chapman has suggested.

When I asked Harris-Brown what would happen in his country if all the men who cared to do so were permitted to shoot game birds whenever they wished, for a short period each autumn, as we do in America, he replied, without a moment's hesitation, "they would practically exterminate every thing shootable within the space of a single month or less over the entire region within twenty or thirty miles of Belfast". This, indeed, has already happened with respect to Hares, which tenants are now allowed to kill on leased farms, and with Thrush & Solomon in many such places (there are numbers of these) as has been shown from the facts. When the shooting and fishing rights remain exclusively in the hands of large landholders game & fish continue to be as abundant as ever for the sportsmen who kill them but can never be destroy more than the annual increase and are at great pains & expense to preserve the breeding stock against invasion of every kind. Incidentally or indirectly many non-catch & even a few semi-game birds benefit still more largely by this protection. Thus Harris-Brown kills only a very few of the Lapwings which frequent his fields

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(No 4)

yet while he makes less use of them than he might he allows us one clue to detect them. He tries to keep down the Rocks & Shooting for instance they become exceedingly abundant they do very great harm by eating eggs & young birds. Sometimes he keeps an entire breeding colony of Rocks away from their eggs during the whole of a frosty night by pushing them with guns within the rookery to shoot into the trees & fly about upwards from sunset to sunrise. The result is that all the eggs become added to us you are aware that year. A common practice, of course, is to shoot most of the young Rocks just as they are about to leave the nests and to catch them in ball pits which I am assured are excellent.

There is literally no free shooting in England except along the rivers and sea coasts, and on the ocean and in the bays & creeks that connect with it. Elsewhere one may not fire a gun at bird or beast of any kind save on his own land, or land of which he has leased the shooting privileges from the owner, or on land which he enters by the owner's invitation as a friend or guest. A farmer who leases land for agricultural purposes & for periods of only one year each has now the right to take game, game, is Hares & Rabbits. Whether or not he can take them by means of a gun I have not yet ascertained. He cannot take birds of any kind by virtue of any such form of lease. Some large landed proprietors before looked to all farmers who will not promise to let the Hares alone. The Hares have diminished greatly in numbers throughout most of England.

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Sept 14

(no 5)

The obvious food supply for birds in England consists chiefly of grain and berries. The grain fields as I have said are far more numerous, extensive and prolific here than in any of our Atlantic States and they account in large measure for the abundance of such birds as Robins, Starlings, House Sparrows and other kinds of Finches. The abundance of such birds as the Song Sparrow and the Blackbird is probably due, in an equal degree, to ^{the} enormous supply of food ^{furnished} in autumn, & through the entire winter, furnished by the hawthorn. These not only make up most of the provision in the hedge rows which serve as fences for most of the fields but they also occur nearly everywhere in the form of small trees, standing singly or in groups in waste places such as steeply sloping banks, the margins of rivers, old abandoned stone quarries & the like. Indeed they are very much more numerously represented here than any berry-bearing tree or shrub I know of in New England and just at present they are everywhere loaded with ripening fruit. This would seem to be ^{an} even more different to support ^{an} even greater number of fruit-eating birds than the country contains, while ~~the~~ summer comes again. The food supply for insect eating birds seems, on the other hand, to be decidedly less, in both variety and amount, than that in Eastern North America. There are practically no grasshoppers or crickets (I have not seen one), comparatively few Butterflies, almost no caterpillars or meadow worms (I have not noticed any), few spiders. The larvae of land snails are said to be numerous and of small Diptera, such as our great-bell in form & size, there is obviously an abundance.

Oxford.

1909.

Sept. 19

Foggy in early morning. After that sunny and almost cloudless but very hozy. Little or no wind. Warm in sun, chilly in shade.

Walking alone in Oxford Park from 8.30 to 9 and from 10 to 11.30, A.M. During the second trip I went circuitly around it, a distance of nearly a mile. It is a most attractive place. The central portions open grass fields dotted with growing sheep, the outskirts planted thickly with a great variety of ornamental trees and shrubs through which wind gravelled foot paths. As an example of the very best type of landscape gardening it equals anything I ever know of in America. Even our Audubon Park would suffer by comparison with it, for it is simpler and less conservatively ornate yet even more beautiful, at least to my taste, for a distance of nearly a quarter of a mile the borders directly on the Charnock. Here are many fine old trees, among them alders forty or fifty feet in height with trunks two feet in diameter at the base.

The Park was literally alive with birds to day. Robins were especially numerous and in full song everywhere. The singing males occurred, on the average, once every fifty yards and I heard scores of them in all. Their bright, gleaming, highly variegated notes delighted me. Some of their songs reminded me of the song of our Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Starlings were present in large numbers. There were flocks of them everywhere among the sheep and I saw two perched on the back of a feeding sheep, keeping their positions with some difficulty. Single males hovered among the foliage of the trees over singing on every hand. Their music is very varied and highly entertaining. They have "reeling" notes not unlike the Sky-larks and an infinite variety of clear whistles, some resembling our Cardinals, others very hoarse in quality. Two Cliff-Chaffs were in full song, the first I have heard this year.

A morning
walk in
Oxford Park

Oxford.

1909.

Sept. 19

(no 2)

Four or five Marsh Tits flitting about among shrubbery & trees near a path were rather common & I heard a good deal of them. They were very like our Chickadees & their behaviour was much the same except they occasionally gave a Chickadee che-dee call but none of their notes sounded unfamiliar. At least two of them sang freely for minutes at a time. The song (which I heard first at Wells in 1891) was loud, penetrating & rather pleasing, but somewhat too shrill & long to be wholly so. It consists of either two or three notes, pitcher, pitcher or pit-cher, pit-cher, pitcher, all very closely connected & each strongly accented on the first syllable. Sometimes there is a short note (pit) added at the end of the song. I heard others lots of this species singing in other places. I saw two Marsh Tits, one alone by itself, the other with the latter flock of Marsh Tits. Both were silent and rather shy.

A LITTLE Dove was coming in the park and I heard another in our garden early this morning. The call of the LITTLE Dove consists of nine or ten notes uttered rather slowly, with much rising effort, in a deep, hoarse, guttural voice.

It is interesting but not musical or even pleasing. When I was here early in August I heard one of these Doves coming among downy hedges and finally down it jumped on the roof of a door-cot in a back yard! Flood Pigeons, also, frequent the Oxford Park, but not in any numbers.

The Thrush comes much later on than birds in a flock, has resonant voice. I heard one this morning uttering a loud cheer, cheer which sounded very like the call of a Herring Gull.

Jackdaws are very common in & about Oxford. They spend much of their time on the roofs of houses & other buildings, perched on the chimneys & hopping along the eaves. Their flight call, a mellow hee, hee, sounds at a distance like that of our Purple Martins.

Morning
work in
the Park.

English Lakes.

1909.

Sept 20-27

We spent this week in the English Lakes region, making our headquarters at Riggs Hotel, Windermere and then taking trips almost daily to more or less distant ~~places~~ of interest among which have been Ullswater, Ambleside, Grassmere, Thirlmere, Derwentwater, and Fountains Abbey. Two of these excursions were made by motor car, the others by boat, carriage or road. Thus we have seen a good deal of the region in a somewhat superficial way. It is very beautiful and picturesque, more so, I am bound to admit, than anything we have in New England. Although five of the mountains of and 3000 ft. in height they rise almost directly from levels lower than those basins above the sea and hence seem higher than some of our western peaks & ridges of much greater actual elevation. It is said that they were formerly wooded to their summits but now they have few trees except at or near their bases. Some of them present steeply sloping faces of bare rock or of boulders, half covered by grass, heather & other low herbs and there are precipitous cliffs in many places. Others are thickly grassed from base to summit and everywhere dotted with grazing sheep. Many are evidently gigantic ridges with narrow, undulating crests miles in length. Others resemble in shape pointed or but slightly rounded hills. The down-slope is less common than in our New England mountains.

Most of the lakes are long, narrow & comparatively straight, with imposing mountains hemming them in closely on every side and in places rising abruptly from the very edge of the water. There are few houses about these shores which with the lower slopes of the mountains are often covered with woods of oak, pine, spruce, fir & larch. Some of these boundary forest stands for miles along the shores and extend up & back

| 1909.

Sept. 26-27

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over the lower tier of hills for a distance of half a mile to a mile. Of the larger lakes Windermere has the most serene and restful scenery, Derwentwater the most picturesque and beautiful, Ullswater the most rugged and imposing. Rydalwater is pretty but rather insignificant, Grassmere commonplace and uninteresting, Thirlmere unlovely and, indeed, almost forbidding by reason of its many straight stone Gairs and of the generally rocky, barren condition of its bounding slopes.

The bird life of the region has disappointed me. It seems much less rich and varied than in the low country. At best this is true of the mountain lakes and lake shores where I have noted only a very few birds of any kind. They are numerous enough about the towns and cultivated grounds in some of the valleys, however. A Heron, a Cormorant and three hawks at Derwentwater on the 23rd, three Ducks which I take to be Pochards in ~~Derwentwater~~ ^{Grassmere water} on the 21st and numbers of Black-headed Gulls seen in all the larger lakes comprise the best of all the notes that I have noted.

In Thirlstone Pass I saw on the 22nd a beautiful little Merlin skimming over the moors about 200 yds. off. It looked & flew exactly like our Pigeon Hawk. Four or five Pheasants and a flock of about 20 Wood Pigeons were met with in this pass. Rabbits & fox dens are much less common than in most other parts of England and especially over high country.

The commonest bird in & about the towns & villages is the House Sparrow & next to him the Robin. The Robin is quite as abundant and as generally distributed in cultivated parts of this region as in any other part of England where we have been. During the past week he has been singing everywhere at all hours of the day & that I have never seen him for many winters beyond the sound of his delightful voice except in mountain passes.

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The Steeple, also, are in full song now on almost all houses. Two or three notes are nearly always to be heard & heard first on a metal weathercock in front of Riggs Hotel. To which they soon to resort for the purpose of indulging in a friendly musical competition. It is conducted in the most desecious and libidinous manner, without the slightest show of jealousy. First one & then another takes his turn, each uttering a great variety of notes, with singular deliberation or, at least, as it impresses one by reason of the prolonged utterance of them which separates each turn of the throat utterances. Some of the notes are whistles, very clearly articulated and very harmonious in quality, others rich, musical warbling, still others being metallic like not unlike the "keeling" of the skylark. On the whole the Steeple is no mean musician, if one but listen to him attentively - besides being a very devil fellow.

Between Thurston and Durham on Jan, on the lower slopes of the mountains and in the rocky, hilly tracts of some of the green lands (30 to 60 ft. in height) mostly denuded of foliage and apparently dying. On making enquiry as to the cause of this devastation I was told by a gentleman living in the region that it is due to the depredations of the larvae of a species of saw fly, which feeds on the foliage of the larch but does not attack the trunk or branches. This insect, my informant said, appears locally, during some years, in enormous numbers but as a season of excessive abundance is usually followed by several of almost total absence it has not as yet killed any many of the trees. This is the only locality in British Colombia where I have ever seen the foliage of any of any kind severely wounded by the attacks of insects.

Barbers

Stuffed?
things
by insects

Letter to Conway.

1909.

Oct. 1

Cloudy & cool with light wind.

While on our way from Chester to Conway, Wales by
rail this morning we saw from the windows more large
birds than we have before come under my observation within
the same space of time (wrens, robins, etc.) some of them
with long & Barren (see, Hutton's 188). Some of them
were seen along a stretch of coast six or eight miles in
length where the railroad skirts the shore & the sea,
as was seen of the sea. Here the low-lying grassy
fields and pastures on both sides of the railroad embankments
were literally covered with birds, chiefly Gulls of several species
and Lapsings. One grassfield, not exceeding five acres in
extent, must have contained at least three thousand Gulls, crowded so
closely together in places that they looked like broad banks
of snow. In another there were not less than seven or
eight hundred Lapsings, scattered over an area of eight or ten

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Oct 1.

(No 2)

acres. There were many other fields containing from fifty to two hundred Loquins each or from one hundred to five or six hundred Gulls, not to mention the Rocks & Starlings which were constantly in sight, in countless numbers.

Yet the numbers of birds seen in these fields and pastures seemed insignificant in comparison with those of the same and other species which, at the same time, were frequently the sands bordering directly on the bay. These covered an enormous expanse stretching, indeed, as far as the eye could reach, up and down the coast, and from the sand dunes out to the water's edge, ^{their width being} anywhere from half a mile to more than twice that distance. Apparently the tide had but recently uncovered them for they were everywhere wet and shining, with shallow pools and rivulets here and there. To say that they were everywhere alive with birds would but feebly express the truth. There was, I believe, scarce a square

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rod and in many places not a square yard on which
a Gull, Loonwing, Curlew, Plover, Red-shank or other
Linnicoline bird was not standing or running about in
search of food. For as a rule they were not less evenly
than generally disposed. ~~it is~~ About some of the tidal
flats, however, I saw them collected in clusters, while great
flocks were continually seen on wing, doubling and circling
low over the flats in compact bunches or stringing out
in long lines or ribbons which, at a distance, against the
sky, looked like the trailing smoke of a steam. Some
of these flocks must have contained four or five hundred birds
each. Of what species they were composed I could not tell
but I think there were many Dunlins among them. Among
the birds on the sands, Gulls, Loonwings and Red-shanks
were most numerously represented. Of the total number of birds
seen on these flats I could form no definite estimate.

1909.

Oct. 1

(No 4.)

As a matter of fact I attempted none, hardly, because of the difficulty of making even the roughest kind of count from the swiftly moving train but chiefly because I did not realize, until it was too late, that the vast concourse of birds which greeted our eyes when we first came in sight of the Sands would prove to be practically continuous for a distance of at least seven or eight miles. Had I anticipated this fact I should have at least tried to approximate their total numbers by the familiar method of making counts over limited areas and multiplying the average count obtained over this way by the sum of the total area. When we returned over the same route late in the afternoon the flats were covered deeply with water. Strange to say there were fewer water birds of many, birds in the grassy fields and pastures at this hour than there had been in the forenoon when the flats

1909.

Oct. 1

(No 5)

were uncovered and alive with birds. Still it would
undoubtedly be the wildest kind of a guess to suggest
any definite figures to represent the total number of birds
seen in the forenoon. I do not hesitate to assert that
it could not have been less than fifty thousand and
probably was double that. Certainly this estimate is not
an exaggeration if Rooks and Starlings are included and
I believe it would hold good even if they be excluded.
It does not include any birds smaller than Starlings.
Of the total number of birds to which it relates at
least one half were Gulls and of those more than
one half were Lesser Black-heads, by far the most
numerously represented species of Gull along this stretch
of coast, especially in the grass fields and pastures.
Of British birds the Lophwings were decidedly the most
abundant. I saw more of them here than anywhere else in England.



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Oct. 1

(No 6)

Like the Gulls they no doubt prefer to haunt the sea coast, at least at this time of year. But the supply of food obtainable there is probably insufficient to support all of them so that many are forced to resort to upland localities, even far inland and at considerable distances from any water, such as those where I have noted them repeatedly, in considerable numbers, during the past few weeks. In other words there is, as it were, an overflow of shore and sea birds from the tidal flats and waters which they have overpopulated to inland country - apparently much less well suited to their tastes yet offering the necessary room for expansion which the sea coast can no longer supply. That this is the case with respect to the Gulls I am fully convinced. The Loquax

seem more at home inland & many of them would perhaps remain there though an autumn even were the sea shore less crowded.

Queensdown to Daunt Rock.

1909.
Oct. 6

Clear & cool with fresh westerly winds.

The *Junonia* entered Queensdown Harbor about 9 a.m. & left it half an hour later. It was swarming with Gulls & I saw a few Cormorants, also, perched on rocks, and several flocks of what I took to be Scaup, circling over the water. After leaving the harbor our course lay nearly parallel to the coast & at a distance of some four or five miles from it, as for a Daunt Rock, a distance of about 150 miles. It would be difficult to overestimate the number of birds seen during this run. They were constantly in sight by hundreds, either flying about or resting on the water. Most numerous of all was the Gull. Then, named in the order of their relative abundance, were the Lesser Black-head, the Herring, the Mew and the Brown Black-back. All four species, to the combined number of 100 or more, followed the steamer closely until late in the day. Although her speed was fully 16 miles an hour, and although there was a wind of at least 20 miles an hour to be also overcome, they kept up with us without the slightest apparent effort, rarely flapping and for the most part gliding on set and seemingly motionless wings for hundreds of yards in a stretch and on a nearly horizontal plane although they rose & fell a foot or two (rarely more than that) from time to time. There were nearly always at least a dozen or more floating over the deck not more than fifteen feet above our heads, keeping so nearly the same position in relation to one another that as one looked straight up at them, without at the same time seeing the water gleaming by, it was difficult to realize that they were moving at all. In fact they looked

1909.

Oct. 6

(No 2)

only like the many stopped birds interrupted by incoherent
wings. At this short distance, in clear daylight, I watched
them for minutes at a time without detecting the slightest
movement of the wings save an occasional slight readjustment
in their position as 'set' when there was, as I have said,
scarcely any deflection from the horizontal plane of flight.
Yet all the while the beautiful birds were moving
steadily onward at a speed of fully six or seven miles
per hour against a strong wind! How did they
accomplish this feat. It seemed to me, & to many of
the other passengers who watched it with me, not only
wonderful but absolutely mysterious. We all agreed that
they did not require impetus by their occasional flapping
nor again alternating upward & downward sweeps. Quite
obviously they relied for the most part on means
of propulsion other than their own and quite beyond our
ken. The only solution I could think of was that
the wind served them largely if not wholly in the
down way that it serves a vessel close-hauled. Yet
no vessel could be so close to it and progress as all
for it came from a direction only a point or two in
the southeast of our & their course. I observed, however,
that they rarely headed directly into it for more than
a moment or two & that whenever they did so they
seemed to lose headway. I should like to know if they
can thus keep up with a swift steamer when there
is no wind! If they can the mystery would seem to
be insoluble. I should add that they were only kept back
with us with each but that on many occasions a
bird that had dropped behind would overtake the
others & pass a number of its companions without stopping.

Strange to say they also appeared to lose headway whenever they
stopped their wings. This impression was shared by all the
passengers who watched them with me.

*

1909.

Oct. 6

(No. 3)

or adopting any manner of flight in the least different from that of the male as far as I could see although it might mean for the discovery of a bird's nest as a good time or just as that of any other bird.

Many Shearwaters were constantly in sight, all day. Their numbers steadily increased as we moved westward along the South Coast of Ireland and late in the afternoon as we were passing the last outlying rocks & entering the open ocean we saw them literally by thousands. Hitherto they had been scattered about but here they were collected in swarms over tidal lips when the water was extremely rough under the influence of the strong South coast wind. Most of them were as far off (out to three miles) that I could not watch them closely but they seemed to be feeding as they dived in clouds low over the water. This was 15 to 20 miles from land.

A few Gannets and Puffins were seen during the day. No land birds came aboard or very near the ship except the flock of Gulls seen in Limerick Harbor.

Liverpool to Boston on S.S. *Junonia*

1909

Oct 5-14 Noted sentences taken from official "log" of ship.

- Oct. 6 "From Liverpool Bar to Inceston, 228 knots. Moderate southerly breeze to fresh gale and squally with rough sea". Immense numbers of Gulls chiefly little Black-heads, Mew & Herring with a sprinkling of Lesser Black-birds, thousands upon thousands of Manx Shearwaters, scores of Gannets, a few Puffins.
- " 7 "Lat. 51.28 N. Lon. 17.24 W. Run 348 knots. Moderate westerly gale to fresh breeze with high to rough head sea". Mr. Kiddle reports seeing a flock of about 25 Shearwaters of some kind & several "Mutton" Caring Chelons. I saw only one bird, a Manx Shearwater - seen after breakfast.
- " 8 "Lat 50.56 N. Lon. 26.07 W. Run 329 knots. Moderate to fresh westerly gale and squally with rough to high head sea". No birds of any kind reported, I saw two small schools of sunfish Porpoises sporting in the rough sea & throwing themselves high out of water.
- " 9 "Lat 49.58 N. Lon. 33.14 W. Run 278 knots. Strong westerly breeze to moderate gale with high head sea". "Scurvy racing" no birds, no porpoises, no seals sighted.
- " 10 "Lat 48.27 N. Lon. 40.28 W. Run 298 knots. Fresh northerly breeze to strong breeze with high to rough choppy sea". Only one bird, a Fulmar which I saw at 5 miles following closely the understating waves. No other animal life.
- " 11 "Lat. 46.14 N. Lon. 48.23 W. Run 348 knots. Fresh to moderate westerly breeze with heavy - easterly swell". Bright sunshine & clear sky all day. Crossing Grand Banks 11 a.m. to midnight. Birds disappearing. Saw last

1909

Oct. 5-14

(No 2)

Oct. 11

(No 2)

Then a closer in all, of which 2 were Fulmars, 2 Great
Gulls which I took to be Kittiwakes, all the others Great Shearwaters.

Saw 2 large whales spouting and several small ones, and then
Black Fish.

Oct. 12

noon obs. "Lat. 43.57 N. Lon. 56.37 W. Run 375 knots. Fresh to moderate
swell - easterly breeze with slight, confused swell." Cloudless & during entire
brief intervals of fog or morning & evening. Very warm for the season.
Two birds seen during forenoon but great numbers of them seen between
2 and 6 P.M. They were not continuously in sight but occurred in
succession but 8 or 10 miles wide, separated by birdless (or nearly so) intervals
of about equal width. During the entire period just mentioned I saw
in all about 200 Great Shearwaters, one Sooty Shearwater, about 60
Fulmars, 150 to 200 Northern Gulls (Chickens) (now certainly identified but all
apparently *Oceanis oceanica*), fully 300 Sooty Anks, a flock of *Phalaropus*
(*P. hyperborea*?) containing at least 40 or 50 birds, one Kittiwake Gull and
a very large jaeger, the Pomarine I thought, no land birds extant.
Someone reported whales spouting but I saw none.

" 13

noon obs. Lat 42.45 N. Lon. 63.59 W. Run 334 knots. Cloudy
with light N. W. wind and smooth slightly ruffled sea.

A. Practically all our passengers
have mistaken Fulmars for
Gulls until I said that
they were not.

The general total absence of Gulls²¹ between a point about 200
miles west of Ireland where we were on the morning of the 7th,
and a point about 200 miles east of Boston, where we are at the
time I write this, has surprised me not a little. During our
voyage over this expanse of ocean, roughly more than 600 miles
from east to west I have seen only four Gulls in all, three
of these Kittiwakes, the fourth a jaeger, all seen to the westward
of the eastern edge of the Grand Banks.

Absence of
Gulls over
most of
the Atlantic

Lucanstown to Boston.

1909

Oct 6. 14

After losing sight of the extreme north-western extremity of Ireland on the evening of the 6th we ran into a succession of gales which lasted for three or four days. Very few birds were seen during this period partly, no doubt, because none of the passengers were much on deck. The only bird characteristic of British waters which was noted was a Manx Shearwater that I saw skimming low over the waves about 8 a.m. on the 7th. The full list covering the period beginning with the morning of the 7th and ending with the evening of the 13th is as follows:

List of
Birds seen
during the
voyage.

Phalaropus hyperboreus 12 ⁴⁰⁰⁰/₅₀ South of Sable Island, on wing.

Rissa tridactyla 11 2⁰ Grand Banks 12' South of Sable Island.

Stercorarius pomatorhinus? 12' South of Sable Island.

Puffinus anglicus 7' about 300 miles N. of Ireland.

" major 11 6⁰ Grand Banks 12 ²⁰⁰⁺/_{South} of Sable Island.

" graculus 12' South of Sable Island.

Fulmarus glacialis 10' 11 2⁰ Grand Banks 12 ⁶⁰

Oceanites oceanica? 12 ¹⁵⁰⁺/_{South} of Sable Id.

Mergulus alle 12 ³⁰⁰⁺/_{South} of Sable Island.

At Sea to the S. of Sable Island.

1909

Oct. 12

Clear with gently - heaving sea only just ruffled by the light south-easterly breeze.

The smooth sea, soft air, and pleasantly warm sunbath made the upper deck very attractive to our passengers and most of them spent the entire day there. As no birds were reported during the forenoon I took only an occasional turn outside the smoking room but the afternoon was so filled with interest to our ornithologist that I scarcely left the deck from 2 to 6 o'clock. During this period birds were almost constantly in sight but their numbers varied greatly. The ship seemed to run across belts of ocean 8 to 12 miles in width where they were rather evenly dispersed and very abundant and then to cross intervening belts of comparatively scarcity or even of absence (but never quite) total absence. The widest and most numerous belt occurred between 4.30 & 5.30 P.M. As far as I could see the general character of the ocean remained precisely the same during the entire afternoon. All the while we were some 200 to 300 miles to the south of Sable Island and in constant nearness to the coast of the Atlantic Ocean.

The most abundant birds were Little Auks, Great Shearwaters, Herring Gulls, Petrels and Gulls.

The Little Auks were very evenly & generally dispersed over the belts where they occurred. Where they were most numerous we passed them every 200 or 300 yards. They sometimes occurred singly but oftentimes in pairs & occasionally in little groups of 3 to 5. The largest number seen actually together was 8. All were seen in the water when in advance of the ship and many allowed us to pass within 50 yards or even less without flying or diving but when within 100 yards or less the greater number flew or dove. Those on the windward side of the ship rose & made off against the

1909

Oct. 12

(No 2)

wind with no great difficulty although it was not uncommon for a bird to utter the notes of several birds in succession before getting on a safe elevation above the heavy water. These birds to descend had to rise above wind and water fens if any exceptions they made clumsy work of it and nearly always dropped back into the water again after fluctuating along some its surface for a few rods without once getting fully clear of it. These fairly on wing, flew off very abruptly for a while. In most parts above the crests of the waves, those that down rarely appeared within my view. One and all floated very lightly on the tossing waves and showed their strongly contracted black & white markings well conspicuously. They were exceedingly pretty little birds seen thus in the bright sun on the dark steel gray water. In one spot where there was many tiny white caps swimming I found it difficult to distinguish the birds from them.

Nearly all the Petrels were on wing. I did not see but a few. Mutton Birds alight & close to wings. When I was crossing to England in July I had some instruction talks with an old sea captain who had been a master of sailing vessels for over forty years. He assured me that during his entire experience on the oceans of our part of the world he had never seen a Mutton Bird's floating on the water with actually folded wings and he felt confident that they were not there as yet. Some of the Fishermen & Shearwater down to-day were in the water but only a very few. By far the greater number kept was on wing swimming about over the ocean apparently quite aimlessly sometimes looking for a moment over the water of our ship but none following it. The flight of the two species is similar but that of the Fisherman is a little less firm & gives one more the impression of deformation of progress & of nervousness.

1909.
Oct 12
(Ms 3)

Both species habitually fly at a height of from 1 or 2 to 6 or 8 feet above the crests of the waves. When the waves are high they sometimes rise and fall with them or follow the hollows between them for a greater or less distance before rising again above their crests. They regularly progress by alternate flapping & soaring, first giving a firm & steady upward, nervous stroke and then gliding softly on the wings for a distance of 30 to 100 yards before flapping again. When thus gliding they usually incline their body to right and left turning first the under & next the upper surfaces of the body & wings towards the observer but this rhythmic wing although similar to that of the Hairy Shearwater is less pronounced and graceful, being less conspicuous. When the Hairy Shearwater thus appears the under parts in the forenoon they are most conspicuous for the under but when their ^{dark} backs are turned towards the beholder the bird is likely to be lost to sight against the blue or gray water unless it is seen overhead. The Fulmar is conspicuous at all times for when at any distance beyond 100 yards its back & upper parts show olive or white as the under parts. Not once while watching these fine birds to-day did I see one of them pick up any kind of food or even obviously try to do so. They seemed, indeed, to be merely amuse themselves by flying endlessly on & on.

I saw, about 4 P.M., a very large dark colored bird with central tail feathers longer than the rest. It was evidently a Jaeger & either the Pomarine or the Greater Shearwater, probably the former although it looked big enough for the latter.

Swarms of *Phalaropus* containing 40 or more birds passed in within 400 yards. They skinned over the ocean whirling & sailing like Pope in a compact bunch, finally alighting in the water.

1909
Oct. 12
(no 4)

Concerning the identification of the Great Shearwaters
observed to-day I have no doubts whatever. In appearance
and behavior they were one and all typical of that species
as I have known it for many years, off the New England
coast. As I watched them flying about, often so near at
hand that I could make out all the details of color &
moultings distinctly, I became ever-nigh convinced that
the birds seen in such numbers on my outward voyage
this year (on August 1) must have been something different.
The latter were certainly smaller and "chunkier" with decidedly
shorter wings, and their flight was slower and heavier. During
the intervals of sailing on the wings ^{they} rarely could fly a distance
of more than ~~five~~ or five yards whereas the Great
Shearwaters seen to-day frequently skimmed ~~across~~ ^{the water}
wing-beat for one hundred yards or more. Moreover there
was the complete & loud whistled call which
P. major does not know.

FROM THE LOG.

Tuesday, October 5th, 1909.
5.04 p.m....Left Liverpool Landing Stage.
5.23Rock Lighthouse abeam.
6.09Bar Lightship abeam.
Wednesday, 6th October.
9.59 a.m....Arrived Queenstown (Roche's Point.)
11.47 a.m. Left Queenstown (Daunt's Rock.)
3.34 p.m. Fastnet Rock abeam.

DAILY STEAMING.

Wednesday, 6th October.
From Liverpool Bar to Queenstown,
228 knots.
Thursday, 7th October.
Latitude 51°28 N. Longitude 17°24 W
348 knots.
Friday, 8th October.
Latitude 50°56 N. Longitude 26°07 W
329 knots.
Saturday, 9th October.
Latitude 49°58 N. Longitude 33°14 W
278 knots.
Sunday, 10th October.
Latitude 48°27 N. Longitude 40°28 W.
298 knots.
Monday, 11th October.
Latitude 46°14 N. Longitude 48°23 W
348 knots.
Tuesday, 12th October.
Latitude 43°57 N. Longitude 56°37 W.
375 knots.
To Boston Lightship from noon Tuesday,
634 knots.
Total distance. -Liverpool to Boston
2838 knots.

WEATHER BUREAU.

Wednesday, 6th October.
Moderate south-westerly breeze to
fresh gale and squally with rough sea.
Thursday, 7th October.
Moderate westerly gale to fresh breeze
with high to rough head sea.
Friday, 8th October.
Moderate to fresh westerly gale and
squally with rough to high head sea.
Saturday, 9th October.
Strong north-westerly breeze to moderate
gale with high head sea.
Sunday, 10th October.
Fresh north-westerly gale to strong
breeze with high to rough confused sea.

Spy Pond, Arlington, Mass.

1909.
October

According to Mr. Warren E. Freeman of Arlington (whom I met in Boston on Nov. 20th) the flight of Ruddy Ducks at Spy Pond during this month was heavier than for many years. He has definite knowledge of seventy-five birds killed and thinks there must have been others of which he has no record. He himself killed a dozen or more although he visited the pond only a few times. Before the season was over all shooting on the pond before 7 a. m. was prohibited by the town (Arlington) authorities because of the disturbance of the early morning thousands of people living near the pond, due to the heavy firing about daybreak.

Abundant
Ruddy Ducks
at Spy
Pond

The flight of Coots (Falco) during this month was even more remarkable. They came in in flocks, sometimes containing ten or a dozen birds each, and very many were killed.

Abundant
of Coots

On several occasions Mr. Freeman saw them flying, as well as swimming, in company with the "Dumb-birds".

One morning, at daybreak, four Mallards passed within shot of Mr. Freeman's boat when he brought down two with his first barrel and the other two with his second (a remarkable feat), securing all four birds. There were ducks in fully mature plumage, the female a female.

Mallards

There was a down Ruddy was seen in Jamaica Pond in October and 29 Coots observed there at our time last that month (see heretofore Club records). His reports relating to Fresh Pond for the ^{month of the} autumn have reached us.

Mr. Freeman also told me of the Scaup Ducks which he saw in the boat of a gentleman at Spy Pond in October. He did not examine them closely and there is doubt as to how reliable they were. Several of these Scaups.

Scaups

Cambridge, Mass.

1909
Nov. 2

Alternating clouds & sunshine. Very warm for the season, with fresh, damp South-west wind.

A Carolina Wren in full song in our garden this afternoon. I heard it first about 4 o'clock when it clear, loud notes came to my ears with perfect distinctness as I sat writing in my study. After they had been repeated half-a-dozen times or more, at the usual short intervals, I went to the front door of the Museum and looking out saw the bird for an instant just as it flew from the beechen bush by the pond, in which it had been perched, into the lilacs at the rear of our house. Half-an-hour later it sang again. This time a different form of song from that used at first. Still later (as twilight was falling) it uttered the low scolding chatter a few times. Gilbert who ~~attended~~ with me to the song this afternoon, is very sure that he heard the same notes in the garden about October 12th. On that occasion he saw the bird utter them and had a good view of it. He spoke about it to me when I returned from England on the 14th but as he said, he thought it was a Winter Wren the matter did not interest me much. He now says that the bird struck him as being much too large for either a Hood or a Winter Wren. I had no time to look up birds in the garden on the 14th or 15th and on the afternoon of the 16th I went to Concord when I spent the following two weeks returning on November 1st. During that day I heard Chickadees & White Throats in the garden & saw a Robin & a Golden-crowned Thrush. H. W. Henshaw saw a Horned Grebe. There were two Robins, a Horned Grebe, several Chickadees & one or two White-throats. These notes these this afternoon, saw both Owl excrement under the cedar tree.

Carolina
Wren in
our garden

On the morning of Nov. 3, about 8 o'clock, H. W. Henshaw heard the Carolina Wren in full song in the garden for some ten or fifteen minutes. It was not certainly noted after this although I thought I heard it several times, on the 4th.

1909
Mar. 1

Lincoln Mass.

Clear cold & in the morning very soft.

Harry W. Hurst and I visited Fresh Pond and the neighboring Swamp this morning, leaving home about 10.30 and getting back at 1. In the Hurst Avenue car we met Walter Deane and Mrs. MacMillan who were bound on the same road as ourselves. We went together directly to Hurst Point where we could look out and down over the entire pond. The surface shone like a burnished mirror, in the clear light of the low November sun and was everywhere untroubled save by the rings of rising fish and by the occasional slight ripples made by the few water-fowl that floated near its center. There of them birds were Black Ducks. The fourth journeyed us for another few it ^{was} asleep, with its head buried among the reed-like foliage, and we could not make out much more than

Visit to
Fresh Pond.

Only 6
water fowl
in pond.

Black Ducks

Old Square

Cambridge, Mass.

1909.

Nov. 7

(No 2)

that it was largely white or whitish with brown and blackish markings the precise position & arrangement of which was not obvious, even through our powerful field glasses. But when at length it raised its head and neck and began swimming I saw at once and unmistakably that it was our friend Old Squaw, an adult female, I thought. This I had suspected from the first although Henslow was of the opinion that the bird was a Ruffin-head until he saw its head and neck displayed, when he fully agreed with my determination. Mr. Baker, who saw it in the pond on Nov. 6, then later and called to tell me about it in the afternoon, had also concluded that it must be a female Old Squaw. Thus, then, I think we have my recent recollections of the occurrence of this species in Fresh Pond. ~~as~~

1909.
Nov. 7
(No 3)

Cambridge, Mass.

There were, as I have said, only four water-fowl
in the main body of the pond when we first reached
the end of the point but on our way thither we passed
a pair of Canada Geese[#] which were swimming near
shore, well up in Boat House Cove, and just as
we left the pond to go to the Bleachers & to the
Hedge Swamp saw sixteen or seventeen Herring Gulls
alighted with the Black Ducks & the Old Squaw
and before making the water fly, as they beat this
big wings on the water surface either in sport
or for the purpose of washing their plumage.
I am afraid I can learn the pond has been
frequented by comparatively few Gulls or Ducks
there for this autumn. This number have been
steadily declining there for several seasons past,
apparently because Spot Pond attracts them more.

* That two birds (one very
much larger than the other) have frequented the pond
for the past week or more. I have been down in neighborhood, with
Hedge Swamp. It is thought they have escaped from the flock of Canada
Geese that were seen at the end of the pond, as they were not
seen elsewhere.

Cambridge, Mass.

1909.
Nov. 7
(No 4)

We left the Pond about noon and spent the following hours revisiting certain of the places in the Fresh Pond Swamp where we had not been together for many years if, indeed, since the old collecting days in the early seventies. The swamp was everywhere dry, pretty, no doubt, because of the lack of rain during the past two years but also, perhaps, because the works of draining them by widening and deepening Alewife Brook has already far advanced. It was begun, I understand, some time early last summer. When I went to Concord on October 16th last I saw, from the car window, as the train crossed the brook just beyond North Cambridge Junction, a small army of men throwing out dirt from the bottom of the brook both above and below the railroad bridge. To day we found it perfectly

Cumbridge, Mass.

1909.

Nov. 7

(No 5)

dry for the first time in my experience / between Concord
Jupiter & the Fitchburg Railroad. There was water in
the Glacialis but it was far below the normal level,
even for seasons of extreme drought. This pond is
now everywhere surrounded by dense beds of cut lime flags
and they have recently so encroached on the transverse
dike (formerly of open water) at its northern end that
this part of the pond has become once again obstructed.
No doubt the Glacialis with Pond Pond and all the
smaller ponds and water ways of the Fish Pond
Swamps will soon be completely drained and the entire
surrounding region turned into market garden farms or
built upon. Henshaw and I were saddened at this
prospect as we discussed it to-day but what may
prove to be our last mutual glimpse of many of the
dear old haunts of our early youth was at least had

Cambry, Mass.

1909.

Nov. 7
(No 6)

under peculiarly favorable conditions for the day was absolutely perfect. Although the Maple Swamp has been recently despoiled of all but a few of its larger trees and otherwise sadly disfigured by fire there still remains much attraction even for limited hunting birds and of these we saw or heard a considerable Species number chiefly Song Sparrows (a dozen or more) and the Sparrows with one 7 of Sparrows and one Swamp Sparrow. A flock of 9 Red-winged Blackbirds were Red wings from the brushy recesses of the Swamp and flew one on one head as we were plowing by the Glacis.

Mr. Boston tells me that two Coots (Fulica) & a Pair Coots of Great Grebe were seen in this pond last summer.

The bushes in the Brickyard Swamp have been almost Brickyard completely destroyed by drought & fire. Mudcrack Pond Swamp on the foot of Bassal Hill has been reached by the deep clay pit which now extends from the Corn to Covered Avenue Mudcrack and having been abandoned is fast filling up with water. I saw fresh signs of mudcracks in this pit to-day.

Cambridge, Mass.

1909.

Nov. 8

Cloudy, calm, comparatively mild. Last night freezing cold. The Carolina Wren has either been absent from our place since November 3rd (or 4th) or has been overlooked during this period. But at 3.15 P.M. to-day, as I sat writing in my study, he struck up his cheery song again in the garden. It came to my ears with perfect distinctness although all the windows were tightly closed. The notes he used on this occasion sounded like tree - ee - l - e, tree - ee - l - e, tree - ee - l - e. A little later the bird was singing loudly.

About noon I saw in the Garden a Ruby-Crowned Kinglet & heard in clusters several times. There were at least 5 Chickadees with it. Earlier in the day I saw a White-bellied Nuthatch and 2 Crows, in the lindens. As yet I have discovered no signs of the

Spotted Towhee in any of our trees but it is hard to hear down street changes in other parts of Cambridge this year.

When
happens
in our
garden

A lot of
Ruby Crowned
Kinglets

Spotted
Towhee
happens

Cambridge, Mass.

1909.

Nov. 8

(No. 2)

Since writing the page next preceding this I have
seen Miss Mary Bishop who lives at 61 Sparks Street in
rooms directly overlooking our garden. She tells me that
on returning to her apartment on October 1st her attention
was attracted to a loud-voiced bird singing in the
Garden and that she heard it there almost every day
through October and has also heard it a few times this
month. When I questioned her closely about this song
she not only described but also imitated, the song
of the Carolina Wren, so very correctly as to leave no
doubt in my mind that she has been hearing the
very bird which I have noted since my return. She
is interested in birds and knows the common ones
~~found~~ about her & their songs. The one she described
was new to her and she had been waiting eagerly to
question me about it. All this confirms Gilbert's testimony.

The Carolina
Wren
again.

Hobbs Brook Reservoir, Waltham.

1909.

Nov. 12

Clear, calm, very warm.

Mr. Mac Millan took Walter Dean & me to Hobbs Brook Reservoir this afternoon in his automobile. C. J. Maynard & his bird class have been seeing Evening Grosbeaks in numbers there of late. We had hoped to meet with some of these birds but failed to do so. Our trip was not unproductive of interest, however, besides being very delightful in the warm, still, Indian summer weather. About half way up the reservoir we saw a large flock of Snow Buntings (fully 100), at first wheeling over the water, finally running about on the margin of the the pebbly shores of a little point. Near the head of the lower basin were thirteen Duck which we took for Lake Scamps. They were diving for food and one thing took wing & flew above over the entire

Snow
Buntings.

Scamp
Ducks.

Habit Brook Reservoir, Waltham.

1909.

Nov. 12

(No 2)

Lower part of the reservoir before alighting again
near where they were first noticed. At no time were
so much noise than when half-a-mile back we saw
them in a good light, with powerful glasses. I was
satisfied that they were Loons but very doubtful as
to whether they belonged to the larger or to the smaller
species (Maynard had previously referred them to the former).

On our return over the road that skirts the
western side of the Reservoir we saw them ^{Black} Ducks.
Ducks on a pebbly beach and a pair of ^{Red-breasted} Mergansers
swimming about 200 yards from shore. At the latter
birds we had a fair view through our glasses it was
easy to make out every detail of color & marking
in the clear daylight. They were unmistakably
Red-breasted Mergansers, a young ♂, already showing
some traces of the summer plumage, and a female,

Hobbs Brook-Reservoir, Waltham.

1909
Nov. 12
(No 3)

the latter very appreciably the smaller of the two. Their sculptured crests were noticeably shorter, denser and more pointed than those of *Eximius* of corresponding age & sex, at this time of year.

Of the Red-necked Grebes which *Eximius* has noted in the reservoir of Lake we could find no trace.

A Hairy Woodpecker seen near the ~~Eximius~~ Hay Woodspecker floor and a Goldfinch banded at the reservoir were the only small birds noted. Crows were seen in various flocks.

Cambridge, Mass.

1909

Nov. 27

About sunset this afternoon I was sitting at my desk in the Museum when the low, scolding chatter of a Carolina Wren came faintly to my ears, apparently from just outside the closed window.

Carolina
Wren
reappears in
our garden.

Glancing through it, without leaving my chair, I saw the bird at once, perched on the top of a post, within three feet of the window sill and a little below it, his tail cocked over his back, his mandibles pointed and vibrating as he uttered his scolding cry again. The next instant he took flight and disappeared around the corner of the building. No doubt it was the self-same bird noted on the 2nd, 3rd & 8th of this month. I think I have heard him scolding at least twice since the 8th and previous to this afternoon. I have looked for him very many times during this interim but always in vain although I used a dog (bony) to help beat the shrubbery.

Cambridge, Mass.

1909.
Nov. 28

About the same time (4.20) this evening
as last I again heard the Carolina Wren
chattering just outside my study windows and
looking out soon him perched on the top of
stake standing conspicuously. He flew thence into
the Rhododendrons, still feeding, and a moment
later he took the same course or lost sight past
the windows to the right. This time I was
able to follow him with my eye sufficiently far
to make sure that he went up into the ivy
on the east wall of the Museum just over the
Gardens. No doubt he roasts there in some crevice
among the vines as, I remember, the pair of
Carolina Wrens which frequented this garden in
the autumn of 1908 were in the habit of doing.
I searched the garden for this bird this morning without success.

Carolina
Wren
again in
our garden

He goes to
east ivy
wreath on
east wall
of Museum

Cambridge, Mass.

1909.

Nov. 30

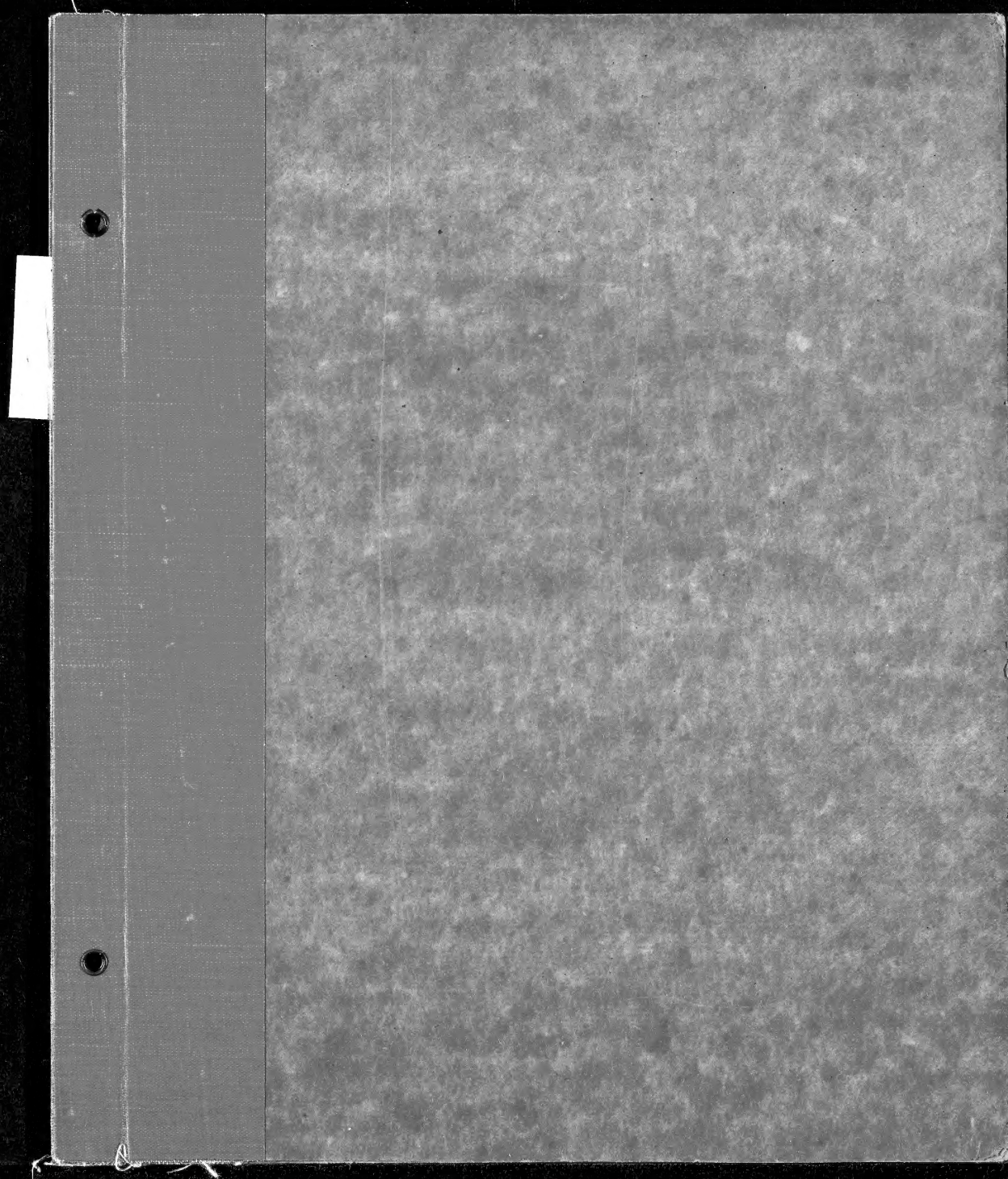
About sunset this evening I heard the Carolina Wren uttering a low, harsh, grating, scolding cry, evidently among the lilacs at the rear of our house. When I opened the front door of the museum cautiously he became silent. He is an exceedingly shy bird, most difficult to get a glimpse at.

Dec. 15

At 4.15 this evening the Carolina Wren began scolding vigorously in the thicket of young hawthorns that screens our clover yard, using the same note I heard on Nov. 30. He kept it up for several minutes. I was unable to see him.

" 16

About 8 o'clock this morning, as I was in our dressing room getting ready for breakfast, I heard the Carolina Wren through the closed window. Scolding out and down I saw him almost beneath me, within a few yards, in the wintered vine over the waste gate that leads from the garden into the driveway. In company with 2 Chickadees he remained here for several minutes hopping about among the terminated twigs in strong sunlight, giving me a fair view of his head and upper parts which were very red. All three birds seemed to be excited about something, perhaps a cat concealed among the lilacs, although I failed to discover any thing calculated to disturb them. The Wren kept uttering a clear, tinkling, rather musical teet-lee. This resembled one of the song notes of the Sparrow but unlike the notes of the song which are invariably uttered in bits of three or a few with rather wide pauses between the sets it was given series of twos in such rapid succession that the intervals of silence between the notes were scarcely appreciable. From this I concluded that the bird was not singing but merely scolding.



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